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NICE:—15, QUAI MASSÉNA.

Great Britain.

LONDON, JANUARY 30—31, 1882.

THE FINANCIAL SITUATION.

Dear money, long a stranger to our markets, has now visited them in circumstances which render it in a double sense unwelcome; for, while the visitation has not been the result of faults or blunders of home growth, the prejudicial effects will fall mainly upon home interests and industries just struggling into healthier life from a long period of depression. On Monday morning the Bank of England advanced its rate of discount from five per cent. to six—a figure which has not been seen in operation for more than thirty years—that is, since the period of gloom and distrust which followed the suspension of the City of Glasgow Bank. The mere fact that this alteration was resolved upon without waiting until the customary day of meeting for the full Bank Court—that is, Thursday next—is the first point which calls for notice as distinguishing the present from many similar movements. On Thursday last, when the Paris Bourse had already attained vast proportions, when France was beginning to draw gold rapidly from England, and the value of money here was rising, the Bank directors met and deliberated, but thought it unnecessary to make any change. Twenty-four hours afterwards a movement became likely, and forty-eight hours afterwards it was inevitable. The circumstances which illustrate vividly the delicate character of the new conditions under which the world of finance and of the trade which it inspires with life are now in its huge and far-reaching operations. The modern developments of practical science which have made communication between all civilised countries a matter of minutes rather than hours or days have at the same time almost identified the money markets of two countries closely situated, as are England and France; so that one cannot prosper without the other benefitting, and crisis or trouble in Paris is transmitted to London instantaneously. Facilities of intercourse have multiplied financial transactions to a marvellous extent, and of these pure speculation furnishes a formidable proportion, the credit of both markets mutually involved to an extent unheard of before, but many of the points of contact arise from business of a hazardous character. Thus, when eight days since the collapse of indiscreetly speculative gambling fell on all the French Bourses like a "bolt from the blue," the shock was transmitted to London at once, and the English money market, although it had no immediate connection with the particular fields of speculation in which French hunters after fortune had run riot, had yet so many interests in common that neutrality in either sentiment or action was out of the question. But the crisis in France, although it came suddenly developed at first slowly, as the prompt combination of the great Paris capitalists bade fair to avert the worst consequences. On Wednesday last it is possible that the heads of "high finance" there believed the worst to be over, and that their optimism influenced the deliberation in the Bank parlour. If so, the feeling and the policy were of brief duration. By Thursday evening it became apparent that large supplies of gold must be drawn from England to replenish French coffers against contingencies difficult to measure. Orders came hither, were increased, and quickly repeated, for gold, more gold, gold at any cost, any sacrifice of securities, any pledging of credit still undoubted. In the three days the precious metal, to the value of about six hundred and fifty thousand pounds, left the Bank for Paris, and the discount rate was raised, with the twofold object of checking the outflow and bidding for supplies from other sources. Yet even that was not enough to arrest the current, for almost a million ran out on Monday, and the cry is still it flows. It will be seen at a glance that the circumstances attending the present rise in the Bank rate are totally different from those which accompanied and followed the stoppage of the City of Glasgow Bank. Holders of money then raised their terms because they preferred to lend as little as possible and to keep their resources in their own hands. In the present case we have parted with resources to a large extent, and must not merely replenish what remains, but, if possible, replenish what is void. On the other hand, it must not be supposed that the present remittances to France represent a loss to England, although in some degree it is the discharge of a long-outstanding liability. England is laid under contribution to enable French traders and bankers to use cash where credit has become unavailable, and this market has felt the strain—first, because it is nearest, has had some French money deposited for employment here, and is most closely interwoven in all its arrangements with that of Paris. But other financial centres feel the influence more remotely. Even New York must send over gold to help to relieve the pressure. In ordinary way or other every market must contribute to aid its embarrassed neighbour—at a price, that price generally taking the form of a general clearance of much reckless and irresponsible speculation, not in itself of great consequence directly to any but its authors, yet irri-

tating and complicated enough to endanger the smooth working of the financial machinery. The effect upon purely English interests of the sudden advent of dear money is of course adverse. Trade was beginning to revive, and there was every prospect of the improvement continuing. For it was based upon the double security of good credit and the wants of the consuming world as indicated by open and profitable markets. It can hardly be otherwise than that trade and enterprise just beginning timidly and tentatively to throw out fresh shoots should feel the blighting effects of a change which not only will strain private credit in many cases severely, but will also load with additional expense every commercial transaction where discount is required. At the same time, the dissimilarity between the present situation and that of three years since extends farther than the mere fact that the crisis of 1878 affected internal credit only, while the existing one is due to an outflow of bullion to help our neighbours over a difficulty which we hope and believe to be transient. The three years have added sensibly to the country's wealth, have re-established credit, so that rarely has trade been, as the phrase is, sounder than now, and have enabled it to shake off much of the dangerous apathy which was creeping upon it in the early months of 1879. If now trade should be a little checked, and enterprise of many descriptions have to wait for a more propitious season to develop itself, the worst to be said is that a condition of advance is for the time retarded, and the gains thus postponed may all be realised a little later, to whatever height the Bank of England may rise now, and however quickly the fabric of French speculative finance may dissolve like a smoking mirage. As to the danger of the crisis in Paris and the next stages of the consequent movements in the money market, either there or here, it is useless to venture upon predictions. The situation changes from hour to hour, so that it is alike futile to assume that the severest pressure is now past or that it will go on and become more intense as the Bourse liquidation approaches. Generally speaking, the position can be regarded here with equanimity, since the business world is not overladen with financial engagements, far less wading up to the neck in a muddy torrent of choking liabilities which threaten to engulf it. That in France great anxiety should prevail was to be expected, but it is obvious that the more comprehensive the preparations made to face the work of the next few days, the less likely are they to be insufficient. The French are accumulating ample reserves against the day of reckoning, and they have been too rudely awakened from optimistic dreams not to be keenly alive to the extent of the precautions needed. It is likely enough, therefore, that when the arrangements of which the bullion remittances from this side form part are completed, financial Paris will be richer than it thought, and may be able to return something of what it has taken away when quite satisfied that it will be no longer wanted.—Daily Telegraph.

LORD SHERBROOKE AND THE CLOTURE.

Lord Sherbrooke has written a paper in the *Nineteenth Century* which in nearly every line declares that its author is no longer Mr. Lowe. Not always quite intelligible, its statements are in some important particulars very incorrect, in others grossly exaggerated; while as for the argument of the paper, nothing in its way was ever more odd or unexpected. Lord Sherbrooke's theme is the *cloture*, and why it has become necessary, and when the necessity was engendered, and what was its fell parentage. But first he dwells upon the proof that the same necessity can no longer be avoided. The last session of Parliament is the proof: "a session which no right-minded man can regard with any other feeling than one of humiliation and disgust." Everybody is aware that Lord Sherbrooke has always bitterly deplored the extension of the parliamentary franchise by household suffrage. No man has spoken on this subject with greater force, greater courage, greater wisdom; and we are persuaded that already many superior persons who laughed at his arguments and his warnings only the other day, are beginning to doubt whether he was not right. And now Lord Sherbrooke comes forward with a new observation on the subject. After describing the present House of Commons as a strangely vulgar and degraded body, with manners, habits, and proceedings which no gentleman in any other society would tolerate, he explains the reason of its woeful decadence. Our reformed and enlarged constituencies are to blame. For as the constituency is, so is its representative. "He learns their language, he adopts their views, he accommodates himself to their ideas. A man may be a model member if returned by one class of electors who would be a pest and a nuisance if forced to seek the suffrages of another. It is vain to complain of the misconduct of the members of the House of Commons; they are what their constituents make them." This being the case, we naturally look to see whether the change in the character and conduct of the House of Commons was preceded by any remarkable alteration in the character of the body by which they are returned. And what we find is that the degradation of the House of Commons began not before but immediately after the degradation of the franchise in 1867. Lord Sherbrooke has no doubt at all that here we have the fount and origin of all the vulgarity, all the brutality, all the more gross and offensive forms of obstruction which distinguish the present House of Commons. Perhaps so, but we doubt it rather. We should incline to say that the fault lies not so much with those who elect members of Parliament as with their leaders—the chiefs of the various parties. If the blaring order, we need demagogues of the kind to lead the masses not go down into the constituencies to seek for causes of degradation in the House of Commons. However, it is not this point in Lord Sherbrooke's argument that we wish to notice, but another, quite unique. It appears that but for the Tories there would have been no extension—that is to say, no degradation—of the franchise. Future historians will learn from his lordship's paper that the Liberals would have kept the franchise at pretty much the same level at which it stood when Lord Palmerston died; and it is from that period that the decadence of the House of Commons dates. But the Tories did what no Radical Government would have been foolish

enough to do: and in establishing household suffrage they did all the mischief. The constituencies became indefinitely degraded, and a rowdy House of Commons is the natural consequence. It is the Conservatives who have taught the voter "the false and dangerous lesson that it is by numbers and force, and not by reason and calm reflection, that the affairs of great communities are to be managed." The Tory lowering of the franchise (the Radicals would never have lowered it) is the apotheosis of brute force. Once accustomed to find things carried by force instead of by reason, the step becomes a very short one to apply merely mechanical hindrances in order to arrest the progress of unwelcome legislation. Hence these tears. And now therefore what is the plain duty of the Conservatives? Plainly, to assist the Government in remedying the evil they and they alone are responsible for. They are bound by every consideration of honour to help in muzzling this vulgar and degraded House of Commons, the natural and fit representatives of the electorate they called into being. The only way of dealing with both evils is by a severe application of the *cloture* in the Lower House. It is impossible to gag the electorate; but it is not impossible to gag the violent, vulgar, and obstructive persons by whom it is represented in the Legislature: and if the Conservatives have any sense of shame, or any right feeling of remorse, they will give the Government such powers as will enable the first Minister of the Crown to silence the one at discretion, and so put some check upon the political brutalities of the other. This is the upshot of Lord Sherbrooke's argument, and that in which we have epitomized. What it comes to we need not point out. Lord Sherbrooke thinks that the whole parliamentary system, root and branch, in the country and in the Legislature alike, has fallen into such a violent, impracticable state of anarchy that it is time for all parties to agree upon conferring dictatorial powers on the Minister of the day. The Liberals already see that this is a sacred duty, and the Conservatives will be for ever discredited if they stand in the way of this latest and greatest "much-needed reform."—*St. James's Gazette*.

THE PROPOSED CHANNEL TUNNEL.

The *Daily News*, commenting on a paper by Lord Dunsany in the current number of the *Nineteenth Century*, pointing out the dangers to the country of the proposed Channel Tunnel, says the arguments brought forward deserve consideration. The calamity of a foreign invasion is in these days simply immeasurable, and it is at any rate by no means disposed to incur without a very solid consideration. What the defenders of the tunnel have got to do, therefore, is to show that the latter idea is chimerical, and that the former, if an inseparable contingency, so to speak, of the Channel Tunnel, is not so much a thoroughly fenced and guarded affair. The project is in more than one form before Parliament, the actual adventurers have "found the grey chalk," as they announce with exultation, and the whole thing is an excellent state of affairs. The various questions of possibility, willingness, of capitalists to subscribe, and so forth, have been at any rate provisionally disposed of. It is therefore proper that the matter should come under the final test, that of the *salus populi*. Everybody, we have said, and as matters go now, the phrase is really not much of an exaggeration, is interested in abridging or doing away with the "horror of the middle passage." It would be a very nice thing for persons of wandering habits to get at Charing-cross in a through carriage for three days by land, or to Vienna in a day by sea, and to have facilities to students and men of business, easier communication between families and friends, and many other excellent things in their way. But, if it is to be done, it is to be done by the Channel Tunnel, and the fate of Prussia 75 years ago, and of France ten years ago, the moral of the "Town and Country Mouse" comes in. If, even short of this, it means forts and *minees*, compulsory service, and conscription, it is still a question whether we should not rather continue to trust (knowing perfectly well the utter futility of that trust) in dry champagne and choral, pieces of white paper on the chest, and in the fact that we are strong as may be. At any rate it is certainly well that the advocates of the tunnel should pick up the glove now thrown down. The word is with them, and we may wait for it.

HERCULES PASSAGE AND ITS VICTIMS.

This noisy adjunct to the place where men do business in stocks and shares has been distinguished since last October for three days by a degree of quietude unusual to it. It is the common resort of a motley array of outside dealers, mostly of foreign aspect, though not, as a rule, distinguished by their aristocratic bearing. By outside dealers we do not mean brokers who are in the habit of dealing being for their clients through third parties, nor the lovers of their species who instruct the universe by dissertations on investments; but the gentlemen of the pavement, who make Hercules Passage impassable the greater part of the day, and who, by the force of various orders—of the Jew-German, decayed Polish count, and modern Byzantine, types. They are inveterate sportsmen; and so long as they receive differences from the market, they are sure to be found waiting upon the pavements. But a change comes over the spirit of their dream when to pay and not to get becomes their function. They are apt to make themselves scarce in that case, and may be looked for without success for three weary months together. It is to be said that the strange situation has supplied and victims to the gambling propensities of the hour. But these outsiders are only the external manifestation of the spirit which prevails inside the great mart. There have been extraordinary revelations these last few days of the pastime of betting for the rise or the fall, as the case may be, has been carried on. The settlement which was nominally completed on Friday will be a memorable one for the history of the market. The most dire and dreadful prognostications prevailed all through the week with reference to the results that were sure to declare themselves. The heavy falls in foreign stocks left those who had speculative accounts open for the rise exposed to a severe test. It is to be said that the settlement was to be a relief to those who had been obliged to follow the example of the Paris Bourse, and make rules against "continuation" business, consisting in the raising of the price of the number of dealers who were not for cash, it is true, as a sombre imagination

had anticipated; but they made up for their comparative paucity by the peculiar quality of their very speculative business. The amounts of the stocks that were open in some cases were startling. One of the defaulters, well known in speculative circles, had a million of British stocks open, half a million of British Railways, 19,000 Erie shares, and a goodly assortment of Grand Trunk Second Preferences. The differences he had arranged for were rumoured to amount to £20,000, although he had provided for the payment of £120,000. Another firm, whose aristocratic connections assured for them support throughout a wide range of troubles, and who had been pulled through repeated difficulties, as is to be seen by the rules of the Stock Exchange, had to succumb on Friday. The immense extent of the gambling for differences has started even the coolest and most astute frequenters of the House. Monaco is nothing to Hercules Passage, and Capel Court the place played for in the parlours of the House and within its sacred precincts are higher than the *habits* of the roulette-table dream of; and a paternal State might find employment for its beneficent energies in sweeping away the abuses that have borne so rank a crop. Who is to be the victim? Virtuous John Bull is never satisfied till he has avenged the outrages done to his sense of honour; and we shall expect to hear loud demands for the punishment of the seducers of the unwary, and for the prevention of the like abuses in future. Such feelings demand appreciation, but there is not much likelihood that they will result in practical improvement. Much depends, however, on the extent of the trouble that is now being brought to light. There has been a wonderful amount of staying power in the City, and that has fallen upon wicked Paris, which has visited nearly all the other Bourses of Europe, has not hitherto upset the equilibrium of London. London has displayed a marvellous capacity of absorbing the innumerable masses of foreign stocks that have been poured into the market. It has been a city of refuge for Egyptians, Spanish, Turkish, Russians, and all the oppressed and depressed among the bonds of foreign States. The question now is as to the limits of our capacity for taking more stocks. London cannot take more than a certain number of lower levels of quotations that have been established; and when the limit is reached, what is to be the result? The present fearful and wonderful unloading has been in preparation for a very long time. The question of practical moment now is, how far the London market has exhausted the supply, and on the solution or answer to that will depend the future issue of affairs.—*World*.

COURT AND FASHIONABLE NEWS.

OSBORNE, MONDAY.

The Queen and Princess Beatrice walked out this morning. Earl and Countess Granville and Rev. Mr. W. H. Smith had the day's dining with her Majesty. Earl and Countess Granville left Osborne this morning.

The Duke of Edinburgh was greeted on Monday morning at the Greenock anchorage in the Clyde by the admiral's salute, fired from her Majesty's ship *Warrior* and the Russian turret ship *Peter the Great*. His Royal Highness afterwards inspected about 50 naval reserves on board the *Warrior*. He then visited the *Peter the Great*, and on leaving the ship at noon received another salute. Early in the afternoon the Prince, accompanied by Captain Townshend, of the *Warrior*, and the admiral, proceeded to the *Warrior*, where they partook of luncheon in company. Shortly before three o'clock the Duke paid a visit of inspection to the training ship *Cumberland* in the Garoch, and at half-past four he left the ship and proceeded to the *Lively* for Douglas. His Royal Highness's visit to the Clyde was of a purely official character, and he neither landed nor received any visitors from the shore. The cause of his great haste is due to his leaving two days later in his private yacht for Greenock and the adjoining towns are much disappointed that no opportunity has been afforded them of viewing their Majesty by public luncheons and corporation entertainments.

Prince Leopold, Duke of Albany, has accepted the position of president of the local committee for the reception of the British Association at Southampton in August next. Count Karolyi, the Austrian Ambassador, has arrived in town from visiting at Cliveden, the country seat of the Duke of Westminster.

Earl and Countess of Derby have arrived in St. James's-square from Knowsley for the season.

Earl and Countess Mansvers and family come to town early in the ensuing week from Thray Park, Orleton, North, for the season.

Sir Stafford and Lady Northcote arrived at their town residence, St. James's-place, on Monday morning from the Pyres, Exeter.

The Right Hon. W. H. Smith, M.P., and Mr. Sturges, and family arrived at their residence in Grosvenor-place on Monday for the opening of Parliament.

Mr. Blake, M.P., accompanied by Mrs. Blake, the first Europeans who have advanced into Afghanistan to a point little short of Ali-Masjid since the evacuation of the country by the British forces. Owing to the kindness of Major Conolly, the political agent, they were provided with an escort of Afridis, and under their protection were enabled to visit the Khayber Pass. Two large caravans from Kabul were met in the Pass, and there were other indications that the regular stream of traffic has resumed its usual course. Mr. Blake proposes to inquire into the agricultural question in India and to examine the administrative machinery of the country. On the return journey he intends to visit Ceylon.

THE REORGANIZATION OF THE CAVALRY.

A committee has been sitting at the War Office for the purpose of advising Mr. Childers regarding the reorganization of the cavalry. The line upon which the committee is working is that of the infantry in the matter of localization and foreign relief. The committee consists of General Warden, lately Inspector-General of Cavalry; Major-General Sir Frederick Fyfe, Major-General Sir Francis V.C.; the Inspectors-General of Cavalry in Great Britain and Ireland respectively; Major-General Bulwer, the Inspector-General of Cavalry; and Mr. Knox, the General of Cavalry of the Army. We have now twenty-eight regiments of line cavalry, of which thirteen are Hussars, five Lanciers, four heavy dragoons, and six dragoons of the less heavy class, known as "medium." The four heavy regiments—4th and 5th Dragoon Guards, Royal Dragoons, and Scots Greys—are exempt from service in India, and of the remaining twenty-four there are usually nine in India and fifteen at home. The *Times* states that a project has been under consideration of the committee and is believed to be favourably regarded, of which the following are the chief points:—The four regiments hitherto exempt are to be placed on the roster for Indian service; and the whole of the cavalry, with the exception of one Hussar regiment (probably the 7th, now in Natal), is to be arranged in new brigades—viz.: three of dragoons, two of Lanciers, and four of Hussars, each consisting of three regiments. The numerical and other designations would be for the most part retained, but all appointments of officers and all enlistments of soldiers would be for the brigade, and each individual would be interchangeable with any other in the brigade, and the three regiments of each brigade would be in India, another (the next for service) would

be kept at home on a high strength, and available for quick despatch abroad in the event of an emergency; while a third, that which cannot but be recruited and act as a depot for the other two, after somewhat the same fashion as the home battalion of a territorial regiment does to a territorial abroad. No individual officer or soldier would be compelled to remain more than seven or eight years in India, but the cadre of each regiment would stay for a period of sixteen years in that country. Consequently upon its return home the cadre would, in ordinary circumstances, spend thirty-two years in the United Kingdom, for sixteen of which it would be virtually but not depot for keeping up the strength of the two regiments affiliated to it and for the remaining sixteen an efficient corps. As the Lanciers are delighted by one regiment, and the heavy dragoons have one too many for this purpose, one of the latter would probably be converted into Lanciers, and the 7th Dragoon Guards would be the composite force to be sent for this purpose. If the Hussars were brigaded according to the position of the regiments for relief at present they would be thus divided: (1) the 3d, 15th, and 21st Hussars; (2) the 4th, 20th, and 26th; (3) the 8th, 13th, and 18th; and (4) the 10th, 11th, and 19th; while as the 3d, 5th, and 6th another, and the 1st, 2nd, 7th, 9th, 12th, 14th, 16th, 17th, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st, 32nd, 33rd, 34th, 35th, 36th, 37th, 38th, 39th, 40th, 41st, 42nd, 43rd, 44th, 45th, 46th, 47th, 48th, 49th, 50th, 51st, 52nd, 53rd, 54th, 55th, 56th, 57th, 58th, 59th, 60th, 61st, 62nd, 63rd, 64th, 65th, 66th, 67th, 68th, 69th, 70th, 71st, 72nd, 73rd, 74th, 75th, 76th, 77th, 78th, 79th, 80th, 81st, 82nd, 83rd, 84th, 85th, 86th, 87th, 88th, 89th, 90th, 91st, 92nd, 93rd, 94th, 95th, 96th, 97th, 98th, 99th, 100th, 101st, 102nd, 103rd, 104th, 105th, 106th, 107th, 108th, 109th, 110th, 111th, 112th, 113th, 114th, 115th, 116th, 117th, 118th, 119th, 120th, 121st, 122nd, 123rd, 124th, 125th, 126th, 127th, 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surviving sanctions of the Clayton-Bulwer Treaty is but a way of stating the fact. The disappointment to Mr. Blaine will have been less than the British Foreign Office should have exhibited its usual dull habit of seeing things just as they are than that the native commerce he sought to benefit should have been equally abused. Peru, if lifted on its feet by an exercise of exceptionally benevolent neutrality, might conceivably, though South American gratitude is short-lived, have repaid the kindness by commercial privileges. An equivalent impulse of fear might have led to similar effects with Chili. Public opinion in the United States has steadily asked the price of such highly speculative advantages. It has found it in some curious allusions, in Mr. Blaine's despatches, to the military force at the command of Washington. Lord Granville is reminded of the hundreds of thousands of soldiers who saved the Union from disruption. American citizens feel no call to challenge Europe to witness how gaily they would water the banks of M. de Lesseps' new canal with their blood. They are even dismayed at a State manifesto which reads like an invitation to consolidate with it the loose sand of South American Republicanism in the faint hope of replacing English manufactures with Pennsylvania iron and Massachusetts cottons.—Times.

THE EGYPTIAN DIFFICULTY.

The Alexandria correspondent of the Standard telegraphed on Wednesday night:—
The situation is considered very unsatisfactory, and many regard it as positively unbearable. The Chamber of Deputies vehemently insists upon its demands, especially with reference to the voting of the Budget, and the chance of an arrangement or amiable compromise being agreed upon by the Chamber and the Ministry is considered to be hopeless. A deputation of the Chamber of Deputies is about to wait upon Cherif Pacha for the purpose of urging that the Ministry should acquiesce in the conditions of the Chamber, or to retire from office. Indeed, I understand that the Chamber of Deputies, which is supported by the Army, has already fixed upon the new Ministry which it intends to appoint, and in which the present Minister of War and Marine will be President of the Council, and Araby Bey will become Minister of War and Marine. The other Ministers will be chosen, according to this Preliminary project, from the Opposition deputies of the Chamber. A striking comment upon the situation is afforded by the fact that Araby Bey is continually sending orders to the Minister of Finance, who has no alternative but to obey them, however stupid or extravagant they may be. The so-called National Party, including the Chamber of Deputies and the Army, if duly united, if they can, to seize and wield supreme executive power. The European colony here entertain but one opinion on the situation. It is that it would be little short of a national disaster if the British and French Governments accord the Chamber of Deputies the right to deal with the budget, as such a concession would be the first step to the revival of the old regime, which, under Ismail Pacha, was so ruinous and cruel to the people of Egypt. The European Powers should remember that the maintenance of the European equilibrium for Egyptian prosperity and progress. The Fellahs know full well how much to-day they owe to the European Powers, especially to England, for the privileges and liberties they enjoy. Such privileges and liberties no Khedive, not even Khedive Ismail, would ever have granted. People of experience and sound judgment here think that the only solution of the existing situation and complications is for the European Powers to demand the Sublime Porte to appoint a Special Commission to come to Egypt and study the situation. The Minister of War and Marine is the most combative member of the so-called National Party in Egypt.

THE HERZEGOVINA REVOLT.

The Ragusa correspondent of the Manchester Guardian telegraphed from Zara (via Udine) as follows:—
Twenty-five men of the Weber (Dalmatian) Regiment have deserted and gone over to the insurgents. The calling out of the Dalmatian Landwehr has been delayed or is already countermanded, as wholesale desertions are feared. The situation is becoming tragic. I have only two good reasons for stating that the young Dalmatian recruits now being called in have sworn to commit suicide if they are driven to fight against their Herzegovinian brothers. The employment of Slavonic regiments against those whom they persistently regard as South Slavonic is provoking an intensely bitter feeling throughout southern Austria. Meanwhile the Austrian Government is making an immense effort to crush the insurrection. A contract has been signed with the Austrian Lloyd's Company for the transport of 30,000 men to Bosnia. Nine large steamers are continually employed, and 65,000 men will soon be ranged against the insurgents. Owing to a false alarm at Castelnuovo, Gen. Jovanovich, who had just arrived, fearing a general rising of the citizens, threatened to bombard the place from the sea. Several schools, however, have been converted into barracks.

SIR CHARLES DILKE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

Sir Charles Dilke and Mr. Firth addressed their constituents in the Chelsea Vestry Hall on Tuesday night, Mr. Napier Higgins, Q.C., in the chair. In the early part of the proceedings great disorder prevailed, and this culminated in a riotous attack by a body of persons who forced themselves into the hall and stormed the platform. The police, to the number of about 100, who had been on reserve, were then called in, and the disturbers of the meeting disappeared, no arrests having been made. The members then delivered their addresses. In the course of his speech Sir Charles Dilke said:—
I hold that in their dealings with questions arising out of the Treaty of Berlin Lord Granville and Mr. Gladstone have shown a Granville of patience and caution with judicious boldness, and have extricated this country, and Europe itself, from dangerous complications (cheers). In settling these frontier questions we have given Turkey breathing time, and have played the part of better friends to the Sultan and his Ambassador, which may be turned to the advantage both of the Sultan and of the suffering populations. If the Turks will, as they promise, at least fairly face the facts of the present day, reform their Government in Armenia, apply the organic statute for reforms in the European provinces, and, by approving the nominations made by the Governor of Roumelia, try to

and secure the goodwill of the more advanced and enlightened section of the Bulgarian people, their Government will even now obtain a fresh lease of life. Mr. Goschen has stated that "Power still retains much real influence at Constantinople as England." With so talented and so genial an Ambassador at the Sultan's Court I cannot but continue to hope. Pressure by England for Turkish reforms is the evidence of our true friendship, for partition and misgovernment cannot but lead to the complete destruction of the Empire. While Lord Salisbury has attacked us with regard to Greece and Montenegro, Lord Lytton admits that we have deserved the gratitude of those countries (and, I would add, of Turkey and of Europe) for removing thence a cause of disorder, but Lord Lytton finds—as he thinks—safer ground in Egypt. In Egypt Lord Lytton complains of "French initiative," to which, it appears, Lord Granville has succumbed. Tory newspapers accuse us of truckling to France, and of going to the aid of a despotic ruler, the rightful owner—by whom they mean the Turk. But they forget their modern history. The joint action of England and France in Egypt is an invention for which we are not responsible—an invention of our predecessors. In 1878 Lord Salisbury refused, though asked by France and Egypt, to appoint a Controller; but in November of that year an Anglo-French control was decreed by the then Khedive, and in December Lord Derby, while again refusing to appoint, allowed an Englishman to accept the position of Controller of the Egyptian Treasury. In 1879 Lord Salisbury agreed to the appointment of an English and a French Cabinet Minister, on the understanding that if either were dismissed without the consent of the English or the French Government, as the case might be, the other should resign. Sir Rivers Wilson and his French colleague, the Khedive was then threatened by Lord Salisbury with deposition, and threatened by him in the names of England and France. The Khedive, refusing to obey Lord Salisbury's orders, resigned, and in 1879 Lord Salisbury communicated to England and France a draft Firman for Egypt. At the instance of France, who urged that its form constituted an attempt to re-establish the authority of the Sultan in Egypt, it was much altered, and was ultimately signed by Lord Salisbury and the French Government. France further explained the exact meaning of the Firman. In August French and English Controllers, who had been nominated by Lord Salisbury and M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire, were appointed, and Lord Salisbury in October and November, 1879, gave advice, and expected that Italy, any share in the control. So much for the creation of the joint control. In addressing you on August 19, 1879, I pointed out that Lord Salisbury had virtually "taken the Government of Egypt into our hands and made it our own." It was, in fact, that he had reversed the cardinal principles of our Egyptian policy—and for which, in its present form, Lord Salisbury is responsible. At the same time, from the economical and from the Egyptian point of view, the control has worked well. It has been, and is, really regarded by us by those best able to judge of its effects, that the control has brought about the "spread of education, the abolition of vexatious taxation, the establishment of the land tax on a just basis, and the limitation of the power of the Khedive. Egypt is now extraordinary. (Hear, hear.) It is impossible to wonder at the ferment in Egypt. That country has long been ruled by despotic means. The word of the late Khedive was law. His son is a man of gentle habits, and he has been, and is, a man of good will in the change. A people suddenly emancipated from a tyranny which had kept them in ignorance was not likely at once to enter upon the path of orderly development. The present movement, however, appears to me that the Egyptian people desire to see that the control is given to the country, and that they are to make a return to arbitrary rule impossible. In that aspiration we can give them our support. It is to the interest of England that the country which lies across our highway to the British East should be governed by well-founded institutions rather than by autocrats. One despotic Khedive might be our friend, his successor might be our bitter enemy, whereas with a Government on a wider base it is easier to count. England and France occupy, however, a position towards Egypt which entitles us to demand that the control should be followed. To England and France it is due that the country has been relieved from arbitrary rule, and the pressure of the Controllers in the Councils of the Khedive is the only real safeguard against its eventual return to the control of the despotic Khedive. It is also a guarantee to the Western Powers, and with guarantees they cannot be expected to dispense. If it is galling to the Egyptians to see certain administrations in their midst in foreign hands—such as the railways, the Post, the Alexandria, the Domains, and the Daira Sanieh—it must be remembered that their revenues are assigned in mortgage for money spent on Egypt, and that the redemption of that debt, which is progressing rapidly under the management of those mortgage Administrations, is necessary. But, for the present, the co-operation of England and France in these administrations is as necessary as the control of which they form a component part, and being there, it forms the rampart against arbitrary rule, and the pressure of the Controllers in the Councils of the Khedive is the only real safeguard against its eventual return to the control of the despotic Khedive. It is also a guarantee to the Western Powers, and with guarantees they cannot be expected to dispense. If it is galling to the Egyptians to see certain administrations in their midst in foreign hands—such as the railways, the Post, the Alexandria, the Domains, and the Daira Sanieh—it must be remembered that their revenues are assigned in mortgage for money spent on Egypt, and that the redemption of that debt, which is progressing rapidly under the management of those mortgage Administrations, is necessary. 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Great Britain

LONDON, JAN. 31—FEB. 1, 1882.

ENGLAND AND AMERICA.

Mr. Robinson, of Brooklyn, has caused to reach late for having postponed his birth to too late an epoch. Thirty years ago, or even twenty, his denunciations of barbarous and perfidious Britain would have been entirely in order. At present they are received by the House of Representatives at Washington with derision and laughter. Eloquence overrides argument; it is animated by the anger of an audience; contempt and mockery are an atmosphere in which it cannot breathe. If the American people were to be surprised at all by the conduct of the British Government has pursued towards Irish disorder, the wonder has been excited by the moderation and long-suffering. Irish politicians are not so popular in the United States for their method of dealing with domestic affairs that Irish grievances against England are likely to rouse any active sympathy. Americans know very well how they would have treated attacks upon the rights of property among themselves of the kind made across the ocean by organised Land Leaguers. There have been times in the history of the two countries when absence of love for the Irish element in the American nationality might have been supplied by the presence of dislike or jealousy against the United Kingdom. This is not such a period. Americans and Englishmen are so closely knit together by the sense of a kindred origin and kindred tendencies that the bond even stands the test of the reaction to be anticipated after the extraordinary emotion of universal compassion for the murdered President. The disapproval expressed by most American organs of opinion of Mr. Blaine's threats directly against Chili and indirectly against Great Britain is still more satisfactory evidence of the disposition of the people to fabricate causes of international offence. Mr. Blaine, once Speaker of the House of Representatives, lately Secretary of State, twice a candidate for the Presidency, and a very possible President hereafter, is a different personage to Mr. Robinson. He, if any professional politician, might have been presumed able to feel the pulse of the national judgment. From his own account of the motives which prompted his amazing instructions to Mr. Commissioner Tresscott, he appears to have perceived in the prostration of Peru before Chili an opportunity for a stroke of business in favour of American commerce. To accept his own apology for his Peruvian partnership in which English partnership on the side of Chili would be to do an injustice to his clearness of political vision. Nobody knows better than Mr. Blaine that Chilean successes are not due to English backing. Mr. Blaine has no sort of testimony to produce for his allegation that Peru feels the heavy hand of England upon her at every turn. British shipbuilders manufacture ironclads for Peru as gladly as for Chili. So would American shipbuilders, if there were any competent for the undertaking. British trade has suffered, not gained, by the deplorable civil war which has desolated Peru. Chilean traders and investors would be delighted by any pacification which should leave Peru able to follow the path of independent and vigorous progress. Mr. Blaine pays more honour to British diplomacy than Englishmen are prone to render when he envies and extols it as always bold, energetic, and vigilant in spreading the commercial power of England. He pays its ceaseless activity and dexterity more honour when out of office than he ever showed himself to entertain for it when he guided the policy of the United States at Washington. No statesman who had respected foreign statesmanship would ever have penned either the instructions to Mr. Tresscott or the despatches to Lord Granville. Unfortunately for his own reputation, he committed the mistake of misapprehending, not merely the character of British statesmanship, but the temper of his own countrymen. The position of Great Britain is definite in these matters. Great Britain does not use her national power to push her commerce, as Mr. Blaine affects to believe. She seeks no political favour for her trade in South America or elsewhere. She does not calculate on possible political complications arising from the projected Panama Canal. If anything, she is more inclined to be careless of the future than to prepare warily for remote contingencies. In opposing an unarguable negative to Mr. Blaine's recent summons to surrender an absolute patronage of the international relations of South and Central America to the Government at Washington, the British Foreign Office simply acted on the prosaic British method of following facts. Great Britain cannot pretend that she is not concerned in South and Central American affairs, when notoriously, both as the leading commercial power of the world and as a great American power, she has a most intimate concern in them. Mr. Blaine himself urges her excessive interest in them as his patriotic ground for endeavouring to introduce an American counterpoise. In negotiating, or trying to negotiate, with Lord Granville on the subject of the Isthmus, he asked Lord Granville to affirm the existence of an interest in the United States of America; and Lord Granville's reference of Mr. Blaine to the

surviving sanctions of the Clayton-Bulwer Treaty is but a way of stating the fact. The disappointment to Mr. Blaine will have been less that the British Foreign Office should have exhibited its usual old habit of seeing things just as they are than that the native commerce he sought to benefit should have been equally obtuse. Peru, if lifted on its feet by an exercise of exceptionally benevolent neutrality, might conceivably, though South American gratitude is short-lived, have repaid the kindness by commercial privileges. An equivalent impulse of fear might have led to similar effects with Chili. Public opinion in the United States has steadily asked the price of these highly speculative advantages. It has found it in some curious allusions, in Mr. Blaine's despatches, to the military force at the command of Washington. Lord Granville is reminded of the hundreds of thousands of soldiers who saved the Union from disruption. American citizens feel no call to challenge Europe to witness how gaily they would water the banks of M. de Lesseps' new canal with their blood. They are even dismayed at a State manifesto which reads like an invitation to consolidate with it the loose sand of South American Republicanism in the faint hope of replacing English manufactures with Pennsylvania iron and Massachusetts cottons.—*Times*.

THE EGYPTIAN DIFFICULTY.

The Alexandria correspondent of the Standard telegraphed on Wednesday night:—
The situation is considered very unsatisfactory, and many regard it as positively unbearable. The Chamber of Deputies vehemently insists upon its demands, especially with reference to the voting of the Budget, and the chance of an arrangement or compromise being agreed upon by the Chamber and the Ministry is considered to be hopeless. A deputation of the Chamber of Deputies is about to wait upon Chérif Pacha for the purpose of urging that the Ministry shall acquiesce in the conditions of the Chamber, or to retire from office. Indeed, I understand that the Chamber of Deputies, which is supported by the Army, has already fixed upon the new Ministry which it intends to appoint, and in which the present Minister of War and Marine will be President of the Council, and Araby Bey will become Minister of War and Marine. The other Ministers will be chosen, according to this Pretorian project, from the Opposition deputies of the Chamber. A striking comment upon the situation is afforded by the fact that Araby Bey is continually sending orders to the Minister of Finance, who has no alternative but to obey them, however stupid or extravagant they may be. The so-called National Party, including the Chamber of Deputies and the Army, are determined if they can, to seize and wield supreme executive power. The European colony here entertain but one opinion on the situation. It is that it would be little short of a national disaster if the British and French Governments accord the Chamber of Deputies the right to deal with the budget, as such a concession would be the first step to the revival of the old régime, which, under Ismail Pacha, was so ruinous and cruel to the people of Egypt. The European Powers should remember that the maintenance of the European Controllers General forms the best safeguard for Egyptian progress and prosperity. The Fellahs know full well how much to-day they owe to the European Powers, especially to England, for the privileges and liberties they enjoy. Such privileges and liberties no Khedive, not even Tewfik Pacha, would ever have granted. People of experience and sound judgment here think that the only solution of the existing situation and complications is for the European Powers to demand that the Sublime Porte to appoint a Special Commission to come to Egypt. But such a step is obviously obnoxious to those statesmen whose cardinal principle of Foreign Policy is that the influence of Turkey must be minimised in every quarter of the globe.
The *File de Doss* has taken place to-day in Cairo. The Khedive was present. It will be remembered that the old cruel ceremonies attached to this *File* were abolished by the Khedive, and none were perpetrated to-day, by the English and French. They wished some of the ancient practices to be observed. The Minister of War and Marine is the most troublesome member of the so-called National Party in Egypt.

SIR CHARLES DILKE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

Sir Charles Dilke and Mr. Firth addressed their constituents in the Chelsea Vestry Hall on Tuesday night, Mr. Napier Higgins, Q.C., in the chair. In the early part of the proceedings great disorder prevailed, and this culminated in a riotous attack by a body of persons who threw themselves into the hall and stormed the platform. The police, to the number of about 100, who had been on reserve, were then called in, and the disturbers of the meeting disappeared, no arrests having been made. The members then delivered their addresses. In the course of his speech Sir Charles Dilke said:—
I hold that in his dealings with questions arising out of the Treaty of Berlin Lord Granville and Mr. Gladstone have shown a combination of patience and caution with judicious boldness, and have extricated this country, and Europe itself, from dangerous complications (cheers). In settling these frontier questions we have given Turkey breathing time, and have played the part of better friends to Turkey than were our predecessors. An excellent understanding exists between the Sultan and our Ambassador, which may be turned to the advantage both of the Sultan and of the suffering populations. If the Turks will, as they promise, at length fairly face the facts of the present day, reform their Government in Armenia, apply the organic statute for reforms in the European provinces, and by approving the nomination made by the Governor of East Roumelia, try and secure the goodwill of the more advanced and enlightened section of the Bulgarian people, their Government will even now obtain a fresh lease of life. Mr. Goschen has stated that "no power still retains so much real influence at Constantinople as England." With so talented and so genuine an Ambassador as Lord Dufferin to represent her Majesty at the Sultan's Court I cannot but continue to hope, pressed by England for Turkish reforms, the evidence of our true friendship, for continued misgovernment cannot but lead to the destruction of the Empire. While Lord Salisbury has attacked us with regard to Greece and Montenegro, Lord Lytton admits that we have deserved the gratitude of those countries (and, I would add, of Turkey and of Europe) in removing these causes of disorder; but Lord Lytton finds—as he thinks—no ground in Egypt. In Egypt, Lord Lytton complains of "French initiative," to which, it appears, Lord Granville has succumbed. Tory newspapers accuse us of trucking to France, of going into a foolish partnership, of keeping out the rightful owner—by whom they mean the Turk. But they forget their modern history. The joint action of England and France in Egypt is an invention of our predecessors. In the spring of 1876 Lord Derby refused, though asked by France and Egypt to appoint a Controller; but in November of that year an Anglo-French

control was decreed by the then Khedive, and in December Lord Derby, while again refusing to appoint, allowed an Englishman to accept the appointment of Controller. In 1878 Lord Salisbury agreed to the appointment of an English and a French Cabinet Minister, on the understanding that if either were dismissed without the consent of the English or the French Government. So much for the control should revive. In 1879 the Khedive dismissed Sir Rivers Wilson and his French colleague. The Khedive was then threatened by Lord Salisbury with deposition, and threatened by him in the names of England and France. The Khedive, however, obeyed Lord Salisbury's orders, was deposed. In July, 1879, the Sultan communicated to England and France a draft Firman for Egypt. At the instance of France, who urged that it be considered an attempt to re-establish the authority of the Sultan in Egypt, it was much altered, and was ultimately agreed to by France; the Porte offering to France a further explanation of the exact meaning of the cardinal principles of the French and English Controlling, who had been nominated by Lord Salisbury and M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire, were appointed, and Lord Salisbury in October and November, re-declared Germany, to Austria, and to Italy any share in the control. So much for the creation of the joint control. In addressing you on August 19, 1879, I pointed out that Lord Salisbury had virtually "taken the Government of Egypt into our hands and those of the French Republic," and that he had "reverted the cardinal principles of our Egyptian policy"—and for which, in its present form, Lord Salisbury is responsible. At the same time, from the economical and from the Egyptian point of view, the control has worked well. It has been officially reported to us by those best able to judge of its effect that the spread of education, the abolition of vexatious taxation, the establishment of the land tax on a just basis, and the limitation of forced labour, have been the cardinal principles of the Egyptian people desire to see in the change. A people suddenly emancipated from a tyranny which had kept them in ignorance was not likely at once to enter upon the path of orderly development. The present movement, however, appears to mean that the Egyptian people desire to see the institution of a Government of such a character as to make a return to arbitrary rule impossible. In that aspiration we can give them our support. It is to the interest of England that the British Empire should be governed by a British people. A striking comment upon the situation is afforded by the fact that Araby Bey is continually sending orders to the Minister of Finance, who has no alternative but to obey them, however stupid or extravagant they may be. The so-called National Party, including the Chamber of Deputies and the Army, are determined if they can, to seize and wield supreme executive power. The European colony here entertain but one opinion on the situation. It is that it would be little short of a national disaster if the British and French Governments accord the Chamber of Deputies the right to deal with the budget, as such a concession would be the first step to the revival of the old régime, which, under Ismail Pacha, was so ruinous and cruel to the people of Egypt. The European Powers should remember that the maintenance of the European Controllers General forms the best safeguard for Egyptian progress and prosperity. The Fellahs know full well how much to-day they owe to the European Powers, especially to England, for the privileges and liberties they enjoy. Such privileges and liberties no Khedive, not even Tewfik Pacha, would ever have granted. People of experience and sound judgment here think that the only solution of the existing situation and complications is for the European Powers to demand that the Sublime Porte to appoint a Special Commission to come to Egypt. But such a step is obviously obnoxious to those statesmen whose cardinal principle of Foreign Policy is that the influence of Turkey must be minimised in every quarter of the globe.

Coming to the subject of the French Treaty negotiations and Free Trade, the speaker said:—

In one matter of foreign affairs, I myself have been personally and busily engaged during the recess. The nature of such a matter is that on the proposed French Treaty makes it impossible that it should be carried on, except by men on whom a good deal of discretion, and even power, is conferred. Cobden complained that he was hampered by the Government in 1860. The present Royal Commission make no such complaint. The powers conferred upon me, exercised, of course, in conformity with the general tendency of opinion. That opinion was on this occasion declared to us by two debates in the House of Commons and by two resolutions of the House of Commons, and that almost all thought that a Treaty should be made if one could be obtained that would be equivalent to the *status quo*, and that no Treaty should be made if such terms were inadvisable. (Heard, hear.) There is, indeed, one enormous advantage in a Treaty—stability. But even the Treaty may be bought too dear. The French Government and Parliament had proposed to greatly raise their duties. We declined to sanction the imposition of higher protection than that which we now exist. They proposed also to confer upon us, proportionately to the values of the articles imported into fixed rates by classes. Such fixed duties, pressing, as they must do, most heavily on the cheapest articles, are anti-national. I say the *status quo*, and I do not mean to undertake the defence of the French port against the Legislature they elect. Our business was to see that duties were not on the average raised in the course of the conversion. Our nominal basis was the *status quo*, but the real basis was the *status quo* as it was in 1860, and do not mention the Treaty of 1860, although the mover of the second and hostile resolution of the House of Commons—Mr. Ritchie—would have been contented with the Treaty of 1860. I insisted on the *status quo*, as established by the Cobden Treaty, the Belgian, and later treaties—a condition much more favourable to trade than that of the Treaty of 1860. We still hope that there may be some result from the labours of the Commission. (Cheers.) Nothing, however, will induce us to put our heads into a Treaty of a retrograde character. (Cheers.) What ever may be proposed in the direction of raising duties upon wines, we are hearing just now less than we were a few months ago of proposals for a complete change of front in our commercial policy. Even those who told us how to raise twenty millions out of foreign goods, without taxing food, have not renewed the offer. After eight months' hard labour at picking to pieces the French tariff I know as much about Protective tariffs as most Englishmen, and I can tell them that they would find the raising of twenty millions out of goods at present untaxed, without taxing food, no easy matter, and I do not know how their manufacturing friends would like taxes on raw materials (cheers). France with a Protective tariff at revenue-producing rates, raises from such goods only three millions sterling; Belgium less than half a million; Holland far less than half a million; Germany, with a high Protective tariff, less than three millions sterling. I would advise the authors of such proposals to read the great speech, pronounced on April 29, 1879, in favour of fighting hostile tariffs with the weapon of free imports by Lord Beaconsfield. Conservative candidates at recent elections not only advised a course diametrically opposed to that recommended by the late Tory

chief, but in particular desired to see a re-imposition of taxes upon corn, an idea which I thought that Lord Beaconsfield had crushed out among the ranks of his supporters. It is a mistake to suppose that, as these gentlemen assume, we are being excluded by increasing tariffs from foreign markets as a whole. In April, 1881, Lord Salisbury moved for a return, which seems to have been meant to show a generous increase of duties and a tendency to the adoption of protective measures aimed against our trade. A portion of it has been issued, and on the whole it shows the contrary. Denmark, Holland, Spain, and Sweden and Norway have made considerable advances in the direction of Free Trade. Portugal and Switzerland stand where they did, and most of the other countries (with the exception of the United States) show mixed results and no clear line of policy; 1880 than they had a few years ago, but duties lower than were their duties of 1860. If the people in England should now take sides for Protection, the time would be wasted in declaring, with Machiavel, "The people ought to be their own masters. This is what I cannot and do not believe in." The agitation for Protection is less violent than it was, because trade is fast improving. All figures show that there has been an immense improvement of trade upon 1879, and a considerable improvement even upon 1880.

In his closing remarks Sir Charles Dilke made the following references to the proposed changes in the rules of the House of Commons:—
The forms of the House will sooner or later have to be dealt with in a two-fold manner—by repression of obstruction, and by delegation of duties to other bodies. The former is the more pressing matter, and that which Mr. Hicks Beach has called "the worst practice that ever sat," but which we know to be a gathering of unusually wise, patriotic, and able men, debarred from doing the work they are fit to do, and not in my opinion tolerable obstruction for many more years from now. The power to close debate is fully possessed by the Parliaments of Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, and Switzerland. It is possible to follow the example of some of our Colonists, from whom we took the form of ballot which we have adopted here. No one can seriously contend that we ought to be content to pass one important Bill a year by shutting every other measure. If you, the electors, should choose to elect Sir M. Hicks Beach, "Wherein have you advanced your turn?" let us at least be able to reply that we have restored to you the working Parliament in which since the thirteenth century your work has been done, having adopted its form, to the neglect of the present day, and in that reviving the usefulness of Parliament we have given to your elective institutions a new life (cheers). It will be for you to use the power which is in your hands to the House of Commons in its later days may be worthily by the traditions of a body which throughout its past has been the pride of the English people (loud cheers, amid which the hon. gentleman resumed his seat).

THE SPEAKER ON THE RULES OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Sir Henry Brand, the Speaker, addressed a meeting of his constituents in the School-room, Cottenham, near Cambridge, on Tuesday night. Mr. Goodman moved:—
That this meeting, recognising how largely the welfare and liberties of the British people have resulted from and depend upon the House of Commons, trusts that the Speaker for the guidance of its proceedings may be so modified as to make it an effective instrument of the national will; and further records its appreciation of the high services of Sir Henry Brand, the Speaker of the House of Commons, and the pride it feels in him as representative of the county of Cambridge. Mr. Fordham seconded the proposition, which was carried with cheers.
Sir Henry Brand, who was received with applause, said the Speaker of the House of Commons, as the servant of the House, had to see that its rules were observed. Last session, however, the House of Commons called upon the Speaker to frame rules for the conduct of business. On that very day last session a memorable sitting of the House occurred. In the course of which he became his duty to close the debate by putting the question. He should not detain them by stating the reasons for the course which he had taken on that occasion. Suffice it to say that he knew that the integrity of the Parliamentary government was at stake, therefore he did not hesitate to do what he thought his duty. What he did he did advisedly, and he should do the same again in like conditions, but he should not say that he would never recur to such conditions. On that occasion he stated to the House the reasons why he had taken that course, and he concluded that statement with these words, "Future measures for insuring orderly debate I must leave to the judgment of the House, but I may add that it will be necessary either for the House itself to assume more effective control over its debates, or to entrust greater authority to the Chair." (Heard, hear.) At that crisis it was not convenient to the House to assume more effective control over its debates, and it adopted the other alternative, and conferred greater authority upon the Chair. At the next sitting of the House it conferred upon the Speaker unprecedented powers to regulate the conduct of business when the state of business was urgent, and under those powers he framed certain rules, but those rules had no operation except under a state of urgency, and when urgency terminated the rules ceased to be operative, and at present those rules had no vitality. He confessed to a parental fondness for those resolutions, and he ventured to think that most of them might be put to great advantage to the House be made permanent. They were in three categories. Some of them might be made permanent as they stood, without alteration; some required amendment to suit the altered circumstances; others framed for a grave crisis might be set aside until such a crisis might again occur. He was persuaded of this, the matter might be left to the judgment of the House. In a statement which he made to the House on the eventual sitting referred to he thought it his duty to put before the House the necessity of assuming more effective control over its debates. That opinion was deliberately founded on observations on the course of debates in the House of Commons during the present and past Parliaments. It might not be generally known that the House of Commons had no power whatever to close a debate, so that it was actually left at the mercy of small minorities who on various grounds might desire to obstruct the business of the House. The will of the House of Commons was expressed by its votes; every vote involved the putting of a question from the chair, and upon such question every member might speak once and as long as he pleased, provided he spoke to the question; but, by an article of debate, commonly practised, by moving adjournments, members actually spoke as often as they pleased upon the question. In committee of the whole House there was no limit to the number of times which a member might speak to each question, and at every sitting of the House the Speaker put from the chair questions by score—some more or less formally, but all of which might become the subject of debate without limit. Neither the House nor the Speaker could close a debate, and, as long as members rose and presented themselves to

speech, the debate must go on. He knew of no power whatever that could close a debate in the House except the Sovereign power the Queen exercised when she prorogued Parliament. Face to face with a grave crisis, he took upon himself to propose a debate. (Cheers.) But the House had not yet signified its pleasure as to the action of the Speaker. It was said that freedom of speech was endangered if the House should assume the power to close a debate. Now, freedom of speech was the breath of life of the House of Commons—(cheers)—and if freedom of speech were put in peril he should be no party to a procedure which he believed would find a way of House, in its wisdom, might find a way of safeguarding liberty of speech and of combining order with freedom of debate. (Cheers.) Referring next to agricultural topics, the Speaker said the depression from which the land interest suffered was attributable mainly to the character of the seasons. No doubt they suffered from competition, but farmers did not complain of the present prices of agricultural produce. They complained, and he thought justly, that they were unduly taxed. He hoped the effect of the depression would be to ensure more regard for these grievances in Parliament. The owner of land had a grievance. He justly complained that the article which he possessed could not be transferred from hand to hand without excessive charges, which diminished its value. Those owners who had encumbered estates could not fairly go to Parliament and say, "Give us, who are not able to transfer the state of the law to part with any portion of our estates, facilities for doing so, in order that we may better that which we are entitled to be able to say that he ought to be compensated for any improvement which, during the currency of his holding, he has effected. He was also entitled to appeal to Parliament to place local taxation upon a more equitable basis. The labourer, it seemed to him, had also a grievance, that he had not the same political privileges which his landlord householders had in the town. (Heard, hear.) He had had considerable experience of the agricultural labourer, and he was sure that he thought the agricultural labourer would make a valuable and safe addition to the electoral body of this country. (Cheers.)

LONDON GOSSIP.

The disquieting news that Prince Leopold had met with a slight accident, and sprained his leg, reached London on Monday morning, and orders were at once despatched to Portsmouth to postpone the sailing of the *Victoria* and *Albion* for Flushing. It is hoped, however, that the Prince will have sufficiently recovered to be able to return to England in the course of a few days.

I am told that Prince Leopold has been appointed a Colonel in the army, in order that he may be married in a becoming uniform, as the Peers' robes or the Trinity House uniform are hardly suitable for the occasion.

There have been a great number of dinner and luncheon parties. Lord Life has given some big feasts to celebrate his approaching mission to Dresden, and Lord and Lady Londesdale have been entertaining very frequently about a couple of hundred persons on the other day, at which Lord Hartington, Sir William Harcourt, Sir Charles Dilke, and Sir Henry James were present.

Children's balls have been numerous "in society," but there is now very little that is new about the adjuncts to these entertainments. Moreover, the custom of inviting the relatives and friends of the small guests, and these usually manage to have a good deal of dancing among themselves.

Correspondents writes to complain of the habit now prevalent of giving champagne to boys and girls at children's parties. My correspondent might also have suggested that these parties would be far better for the children were they to be commenced at 5 or 6, and to break up at 8 or 9, instead of lasting, as many do now, until 11 or 12.

The Duke of Roxburgh himself captured a couple of salmon poachers in the grounds of Floors Castle the other day. The Duke conveyed them to the lodge, where he happened to meet the servant of the poachers, who conveyed them to Kelso; but his Grace's success was mainly due to the "rounding" of one of the offenders, who prevented his "mate" from rushing on the Duke with a bludgeon.

Mr. Bernal-Osborne, I hear, has bequeathed the bulk of his property to his grandson, Lord Osborne Beauchamp, who will also succeed to the extensive Irish estates of the Osborne family, which are now in the possession of the Duchess of St. Albans.

Mr. Milais, who for some years has rented Egham, Surrey, as a summer residence, has now taken the extensive shootings and the excellent salmon-fishings of Murthly Castle, Sir Douglas Stewart's beautiful place, which lies on the Tay, a few miles below Dundee.

Mr. John Stewart, of Dalguise, whose death is announced in the Cape papers, was the head of one of the oldest families in Scotland. His branch of the Stewarts, of which he was the last male, was descended direct from King Robert II. The lands of Dalguise were acquired by John Stewart, the third son of John Stewart, in 1600, and were granted to John Stewart, second son of the Laird of Airluath, and from him the late Mr. Stewart was tenth in descent. He went out to the Cape in 1828, and for 30 years was Master of the Supreme Court. The chief object of his life was to leave his estate free and in good order. He was as proud of his pedigree as the Baron of Bradwardine. Mr. Stewart succeeded by his grandson, Mr. Durrant, who, of course, assumed the name of Stewart. The County Club of Bath—that paradise of old Indians and decayed civilians—has been much exercised of late by the resignation of the entire committee in a body, in consequence of a vote of censure passed on them at the annual meeting on Tuesday last, when, in consequence of bad management, the proposal to add a guinea to the current subscription to recoup the deficit was thrown out by a large majority.

I heard a good story of an Irish tenant. His landlord offered to make a reduction of 20 per cent., if he would pay his rent. The tenant declined the offer with thanks, but turning back just before he left the room in which the colloquy took place, he asked the landlord whether it would not be as well that he should at once pay him the reduction in cash.

delicately-tinted pages. In one, with a slight of which I have lately been favoured, the fair proprietress keeps a copy of the *menus* of all the dinner-parties she has given since her marriage. Another use that has recently been found for the album is to keep a record of every dance, "at home," ball, picnic, or tennis party attended, with the date duly inscribed, and a piece of the dress worn on the occasion pasted on the page.

COURT AND FASHIONABLE NEWS.

OSBORNE, TUESDAY.
The Queen and Princess Beatrice drove out yesterday afternoon, attended by Lady Abercromby, and afterwards visited by the Empress Eugénie at Osborne Cottage, and her Majesty walked with Princess Beatrice this morning. The Hon. Lady Biddulph and Miss Biddulph had the honour of dining with the Queen yesterday.

The Isle of Man was visited on Tuesday by the Duke of Edinburgh. The Prince, on his arrival, was received by the Lieutenant-Governor, Sir H. Brougham, and a distinguished party, who breakfasted on board the *Liverpool*. An address of welcome was afterwards presented on behalf of the islanders. The distinguished party landed and drove through the streets, which were gaily decorated and thronged with people. The Duke then proceeded to Castletown, where another address of welcome was presented to him. From thence he went on to Port Erin, where he laid the foundation-stone of a school, and then drove to Douglas by special train, thence going to Peel. At each place he received the cordial welcome and addresses were presented. At Douglas the town was brilliantly illuminated and there was a long procession. The Duke and a distinguished party dined in the evening at the Government House, and subsequently drove through the town to visit the illuminations, which formed a magnificent spectacle and included a torchlight procession. A ball was given at night in the Government House.

The Royal yacht *Victoria and Albert*, which was to leave Portsmouth on Tuesday for Germany, expressed its regret that the Prince of Wales (Duke of Albany) and Princess Helena of Waldeck, had been delayed for a few days, the *Post* understands, in consequence of the slight indisposition of the Royal Highness. Probably the Royal yacht will leave on Friday or Saturday next.

Viscount Hawarden and Mrs. Miss M. Light have arrived in Princess-gardens from Tunbridge-wells.

Lord and Lady Salton have arrived at Clarendon House from Philorth House, Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire.

Lord and Lady Howard of Glossop and Hon. Miss Howard have left Rutland-gate for Glossop Hall, Manchester.

We (*Morning Post*) have authority for stating that the marriage between the Hon. Arthur Browne and Miss Grace will not take place.

THE WOOLLEN EXHIBITION.

The ceremony of distributing the gold medals and other prizes awarded to the exhibitors at the International Woollen Exhibition at the Crystal Palace took place on Tuesday evening in the Concert Hall, which was brilliantly lit by Edison's incandescent lamps. The proceedings were opened by Mr. M. George, the Chairman of the Crystal Palace Company; and the Lord Mayor then addressed the meeting on the subject of the exhibition. He reviewed the history of the production of wool, for which England at one time was so famous, and adverted to the change which had taken place in the fact that the New World now supplied the Old World with this material, the earliest used for clothing by mankind. He stated, further, that the New World had no indigenous wool-producing sheep, but had imported the stocks from England. The Crystal Palace Company at its outset had conceived the idea of combining the education of the people with their pleasures and amusements, and they had been successful in all their endeavours, without over pandering to the lower tastes of their part, but they had secured the number of visitors necessary to the commercial maintenance of the undertaking. Yearly International Exhibitions had been attempted at South Kensington, on which great expenditure of money and labour had been expended, and great labour had been expended to realise results, but without effect. The Crystal Palace Company, on the contrary, had tried to combine amusement with education, and had realised that desire. In their late Woollen Exhibition they had had a staunch support from the Spanish and other Ambassadors, and from the Consuls General of Colonies who represented the commercial interests of the country in the places in which they were exhibited, and they had had unstinted assistance. He congratulated the Directors of the Exhibition on the success which they had achieved, and the connections they had encouraged between the Colonies and the mother country as tending to cement the friendships between them, for the colonists always looked to the land of their origin, lived in the hope and desire to come back to it, agreeing to the addition of testimony to the value and importance of electric light, and a prophecy as to the good results of the Electrical Exhibition, the Lord Mayor handed in due form the medals to the various recipients. The gold medals of the Worshipful Company in 1844 were awarded to Mr. Geo. Armistead, of Bradford, Messrs. Whitaker, of Newley, Mr. Peel, of Sedbergh, Messrs. Radcliffe and Co., of Rochdale, Messrs. Bliss, of Chipping Norton; the Nire Vale Company, of Clonmel; Messrs. Hargreave, of Leeds; and Messrs. Mahoney, of Cork. The gold medals of the Drapers' Company to Sir Samuel Wilson, of Melbourne; Prince Schoenich-Carolath, of Melleboure; the New Zealand Government; Messrs. Radcliffe and Messrs. Busfield, of Bradford; the Huddersfield Chambers of Commerce; Messrs. Marling, of Stroud; Messrs. Henry, of Bradford; Messrs. Galloway, of Manchester; and Messrs. Holland. The gold medals of the Merchant Taylors were awarded to Messrs. Platt Brothers, of Oldham; Mr. John Tatham, of Rochdale; and Mr. George Hodgson, of Bradford. A dozen Fellahs lit up the Central Transept with very great effect. The British Electric Light Company had four of their powerful Brodie lights in the eastern portion of the Nave. The Eastern Gallery was lit for the entire length by Jablochhoff candles, and the Central Transept, superbly decorated by the Crystal Palace as a bijou theatre, was as superbly lit by Edison. The chief feature of the last display was the magnificent chandelier by Messrs. Verity, containing fifty-nine incandescent lights. These in addition with the lights previously in full blaze brought up the total of arc lights to a little under 157, and the incandescent lights to about 400. The public have already begun to take an interest in the Electrical Exhibition, and there was a considerable number of visitors in the Nave, the appearance of which under the new light is beginning to be very charming. After the presentation of the medals a large party sat down to dinner in the Italian Court, which was lighted with the electric light by the Power Generator Company with a series of Maxim lights attached to star gas pendants from the ceiling.

AN INFERNAL MACHINE.—Late on Friday night a boy named Forgue met a man who asked him to deliver a small box to William Miller, who lives in Douglas-street, Glasgow. The boy took the box to John Miller, a publican, who sent for his brother, William Miller. On opening the box it exploded, severely burning William Miller and a man named Campbell. The box contained a gunpowder, and the police are investigating the affair.

This image appears to be a scan of a document page, oriented vertically. The left side of the image is a light, off-white color with some faint, irregular markings and a slightly textured appearance. The right side is dominated by a thick, dark vertical band, which is likely the binding or the edge of a page from a book. The overall image has a high-contrast, grainy quality, characteristic of a low-quality scan or a photograph of a physical document.

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ENGLAND AND THE EGYPTIAN CRISIS.

The Saturday Review remarks that Egypt has recently furnished a topic to more than one speaker who holds, or has held, an official position which has enabled him to speak on the subject with more than usual authority. To quarrel, not with France, but with the rest of the world, in order that we may make France the sole mistress of Egypt, is a piece of headlong folly of which the Government may have been guilty, but of which we cannot be sure it has been guilty until we know what has really happened. Lord Granville may have changed his mind entirely since he informed France that England would view with displeasure a French occupation of Tripoli, as it would bring France much too near to Egypt. But it is also possible that he may be of the same mind now as when he wrote about Tripoli. There is no kind of evidence at the command of any one who is not in the secrets of our own or some other Foreign Office that the course taken by England has offended the German Powers, or that France has made England follow her lead, or that the just claims of the Sultan have been ignored, or that the Ministry is not walking, as Sir Charles Dilke says it is, in the paths of its predecessors. There is always a chance that an English Foreign Secretary, whether he is a Liberal or Conservative, has been prudent and firm; and the best thing to do before either condemning or approving Lord Granville seems to be to take the advice of Mr. Bourke, and to wait until the meeting of Parliament supplies us with the information that is indispensable for forming a correct judgment. The occasion for action may not arise until there has been time for England to determine, in conjunction with France, with Europe, and with the Sultan, what form intervention, if absolutely necessary, shall take, or else to adopt a totally new policy, and to retire from all exercise of political influence in Egypt.

The Times says:—The time seems to be rapidly approaching when it will be necessary to ask what is the exact meaning attached by the Governments of England and France to the Joint Note lately addressed to the Khedive. It is plainly necessary that our own Government should lose no time in ascertaining the views of the new Government in France on the present situation, as well as its real intentions in case the contingencies contemplated in the Joint Note should arise. Either the Note means that force will be used if the *status quo* in Egypt is seriously menaced, or it means nothing at all. If the application of force by England and France is not to be contemplated in any contingency, that should be made plain, however difficult such intention may be to reconcile with the language of the Joint Note. There should be an end, at any rate, of firm speaking and hesitating action. If we cannot act in certain conditions we cannot make our meaning too plain; if we do not it is equally necessary to say so.

The Standard maintains that "we have got ourselves into an embarrassing predicament, and our embarrassment springs and dates from that unfortunate identical Note to which Earl Granville set his hand. In that Note it was plainly intimated that the Khedive, who had not asked for any such assurance, would be protected equally against his Parliament and his suzerain. Had it not been for that action of our Government the Notables would be curbed by the same authority that deposed Ismail Pacha, and that signed the firman under which the Anglo-French Control exists and operates. To abandon Egypt is impossible. To join France in an enterprise palpably illegal, and one which would be challenged by Germany, Austria, Russia, and Italy, would be madness. There remains an appeal to Constantinople. Were any statesman at the head of affairs except Mr. Gladstone such an appeal would be easy and natural. For him it would take an unnatural and difficult. Yet he must take it."

The Daily News says:—It is possible that Tewfik may himself turn for assistance to the Sultan. If he does, it will probably be the most important step which he ever took in his life. The Joint Note was no doubt directed against dangers which he should deliberately introduce himself. But it is impossible to foresee what might happen if a Turkish force were sent to Egypt by the Sultan at this critical juncture. The independence of the Khedive, such as it is, would be gone, unless the protecting Powers themselves interfered. England could indeed scarcely acquiesce in the reimposition of Turkish authority upon a country in which she has so vital an object to secure. It is not easy to see what justification we have for interfering with Egyptian claims to self-government, or what object we should gain by crushing Urabi Bey.

The Daily Telegraph observes:—To pause now and do nothing; to ignore Lord Granville's despatch of November last and the Joint Note; to leave the Controllers unsupported, and let a fresh set of Mameluke adventures prey upon the Egyptian Treasury in face of the brute force embodied in half a dozen mutinous regiments of undisciplined blacks, would be an atrocious de-

reliction of duty and a betrayal of the claims, not of Liberalism merely, but of humanity. Whether the duty of restoring order and then bringing the mutineers to their senses be confined to English and French troops, or, as seems most likely, to the well-disciplined battalions of the Sultan, who is Suzerain of Egypt, strong measures, under the sanction of England and France, must be applied; and the sooner the better.

THE FINANCIAL CRISIS.

The Economist points out that it may be taken for granted that, however free London has been from the taint of French speculations, we must be affected by it. It is an axiom of Free Trade that what benefits our neighbours will, in the long run, benefit us likewise; and certainly the reverse of this is equally true where trade is as unfettered as it is between the Paris Bourse and Capel-court. Nor must it be supposed that the effect of this crisis in Paris will be very temporary. The prices not only of financial institutions, but of other descriptions of enterprise, such as railways, Canal, and other concerns, have been forced up unwarrantably high, and confidence in such prices, once shaken, is not readily restored. Besides which, the defalcations throughout France are distressingly numerous, and settlements which are only bolstered up by millions borrowed from the State cannot certainly be considered reassuring. Had the Paris crisis occurred when speculation ran so high in London last spring, when stocks were being held here so largely with borrowed money, and when our subscriptions upon new securities had attained exceptional dimensions, the effect would have been far more rapid and pronounced. As it is, a probable improvement after the weakness of last autumn has been checked, and the existing probabilities are that it will continue to be so checked for some time to come. France will not, in the nature of things, recover very soon from the shock to credit now apparent, and this may be expected before long to react upon trade. Austria and Hungary, doubtless, will feel all this more than we shall, for in France there has been a rage for Austro-Hungarian securities of all kinds; but in a modified form it will probably be found to have affected us; and even now our trade advances are distinctly less favourable than they were a month ago.

The Statist says:—The crisis, it must be understood, is not wholly a Bourse crisis. It is a monetary and banking crisis as well, and it is this feature which will make the after consequences in France more serious than they would otherwise be. Business having been developed during the last few years, by means of credit institutions, the disturbance of credit which has occurred will check the means of action which these companies have enjoyed, business will be curtailed in some directions, and all France must suffer in consequence. Along with this will be a great diminution in the purchases and sales of articles of manufacture and general consumption in France, owing to the disappearance of the apparent wealth which the rise on the Bourse had created. The time for feeling these after-consequences has not yet come; but that they will be felt is quite certain, as long experience has shown. Very likely they will be surmounted more easily than they would be in the case of almost any other country, in consequence of the saving habits of the French people. The difficulties that have to be faced are as nothing compared with those which had to be faced after the Franco-German War of 1870-71. Still, they will be serious difficulties, and we ought not to expect that France will get over them for many months, and perhaps for a year or two to come. Meanwhile, however, it may be considered, apparently, that the crisis itself is over. What will happen next will probably be a considerable steady advance in the first-class securities, which have been depreciated by the events of the last few weeks having sympathised with the fall in the "rubbish" which has occurred. But the very credit of other securities, as long experience has shown, tends to the enhancement of the value of the first-class article, and we may anticipate, therefore, that there will be a new demand for first-class securities in consequence of the Bourse crisis in France.

COURT AND FASHIONABLE NEWS.

OSBORNE, FRIDAY.

The Queen and Princess Beatrice drove out yesterday afternoon, attended by the Duke and Duchess of Roxburghe. Her Majesty's dinner party in the evening included the Empress Eugénie, the Princess Beatrice, the Dowager Duchess of Roxburghe, Madame de Arco, Mlle. Corvisart, the Duc de Basano, Baron Corvisart, Lieut.-General the Earl of Northbrook, Sir Henry Ponsonby, K.C.B., Lieut.-General Lord Charles Fitzroy, C.B., and Captain Bigge. The Hon. Lady and Miss Ponsonby and Mrs. Bigge, with the Ladies and Gentlemen in Waiting, had the honour of joining the Royal circle in the Drawing Room. Her Majesty walked with Princess Beatrice this morning.

ARRIVAL OF THE EMPRESS OF AUSTRIA.

The Empress of Austria and a numerous suite arrived at Dover on Saturday morning from Calais by special boat. Her Majesty had a very pleasant voyage, the sea being quite calm. On arriving alongside the pier Captain Sir T. Bruce, R.N., went on board and escorted her Majesty from the vessel to the special London and North Western train, which was waiting on the pier. Among those who also went on board to receive the illustrious visitor were Count Karolyi, the Austrian Ambassador, Mr. Mortimer Harris and Mr. Colclough, as representing the Earl of Chatham, and Mr. J. P. Neel, superintendent of the London and North Western Railway. There was a large assemblage of ladies on the landing-stage. The Empress had luncheon at the Lord Arden Hotel, and left at noon by the London, Chatham, and Dover line, via Longbridge Junction, for Combermere Abbey. On behalf of the company, Mr. M. Harris (the manager), Captain Godbold (continental manager), and Mr. W. C. Cockburn (superintendent of the line), accompanied the train, which was in charge of Mr. W. Kirtley, the locomotive engineer. From Battersea the Empress proceeded over the West London Extension and by the London and North Western Railway to Wrenbury, Cheshire.

The Duchess of Sutherland is on a visit to the Duke of Westminster at Eaton Hall. The Duchess, with Countess Grosvenor, visited Chester Cathedral yesterday afternoon.

The Earl of Northbrook entertained Lord Cardigan, the Right Hon. the Speaker, Lady Brand, and Mrs. Brand, and a party at dinner on Friday evening at his official residence at the Admiralty.

Countess Granville has sent out invitations for evening parties on every Wednesday

during the present month and in March at the family residence, Carlton House-terrace.

Lord and Lady Monson have returned to their residence in Belgrave-square from Burton Hall, Lincolnshire.

Lord and Lady Sudeley and family have arrived in town from their country seat at 2, Chesterfield-gardens, Mayfair, from Hothfield, Kent.

The Right Hon. William N. F. Cogan, M.P., has arrived in town from Ireland.

Sir Michael Costa continues to improve. A messenger called at Sir Michael's residence to make inquiries on behalf of the Queen on Friday morning.

We have authority for stating that the meeting of the Council of the Royal Academy of Music will be held on Wednesday night at the Hon. Miss Abbott and Mr. Le Bas will not take place—*Morning Post*.

Letters have been received from the Rev. Stephen Gladstone, rector of Hawarden, announcing his arrival, in improved health, at Gibraltar on board of Mr. Brassey's yacht *Sunbeam*.

ECHOES OF THE WEEK.

"They've got 'em on!"—the boxing-gloves, the fencers' masks, the sword-staves, the rapiers, all ready for "the carte au tierce, and the reason demonstrative." This is "a writ liggerative," as Artemus Ward would have said. I really mean that in the February number of *Temple Bar* (a magazine for which I have an enduring fondness; seeing that it is one of my own children) there is a furious polemic going on between Miss Frances Power Cobbe, Lady Shelley, and the anonymous writer of a very clever article on the late Mr. E. J. Trelawny, which appeared in a recent number of the *Bar*. The anonymous writer is Lord Byron's club foot, and the ashes of Shelley's heart. The Byron business is, as Miss Cobbe very aptly says, a "horrid one"; so, for the details of the story, I must refer you to the current issue of T.B. As regards the poet of the "Revolt of Islam," Lady Shelley writes in the third person, and with the disdainful dignity of the Prophet Mahomet addressing a black beetle to stigmatise as "an atrocious falsehood" some statement made about Shelley's heart.

Mem. "The writer of the impugned article on Mr. Trelawny sums up his reply to her in the following words: 'The gentleman is colloquially a little behind the age. The most modern version of the proverb is (I think I have pointed this out before) that "Polaris is not to be trusted."'"

Why on earth cannot people leave poor Byron's foot and Shelley's heart alone? In this most unbecomingly controversial Mr. E. J. Trelawny is branded as a shameless teller of lies; and the names of Mrs. Shelley, Mrs. Byron, Leigh Hunt, and the Royal Academy Theatrical Fund, was only *comp d'essai* so far as Mrs. Langtry was concerned) has charmed a London audience by going through the military exercise on the stage. In the year 1750 the famous Amazon Hannah Seal, who had been the King's and Queen's favourite, and had more than once been severely wounded in action, was persuaded to try her fortune as a public performer. She had a handsome person and a good voice, and she obtained an engagement at the Royal Theatre in Whitechapel, and of the Royal Academy Theatrical Fund was only *comp d'essai* so far as Mrs. Langtry was concerned) has charmed a London audience by going through the military exercise on the stage. 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Great Britain

LONDON, FEBRUARY 7-8, 1882.

MR. BRADLAUGH AND THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

There is now, we fear, no issue but for Northampton to remain content with only half its representation in the House of Commons until an Act of Parliament has been passed clearly conferring the right of affirmation on persons in Mr. Bradlaugh's position. This is no doubt the true solution of the whole question, and if it had been firmly grasped at the outset it is probable that far less time would have been wasted in unseemly and undignified wrangles over Mr. Bradlaugh, while it is certain that the time actually occupied would have been much more profitably spent. An offer was made on Tuesday on behalf of Mr. Bradlaugh by his colleague in the representation of Northampton, which, if it could have been accepted, might sooner or later provide a way out of the difficulty. Mr. Labouchere put the case of his colleague in a temperate and sensible fashion, and proposed that Sir Stafford Northcote's motion should be withdrawn on condition that a bill should forthwith be introduced for dealing with the subject. It is obvious, however, as Sir S. Northcote pointed out, that no such direct bargain could be entered into, although he spoke with some encouragement of the method of proceeding by legislation. It is clear enough that this is now the only possible solution. We cannot but regret, as we have always regretted, that the question was ever raised. It has been a perplexity to every one and brought credit to none. Even on Tuesday the Government seems to have learnt little wisdom from its former experience in the matter. If, instead of raising a doubtful speculative issue Mr. Gladstone had treated the whole matter broadly on its merits, had dwelt on the scandal of leaving such a pitiful question open for so long, on the mischievous interruption to public business, and on the undeserved and impolitic prominence given to Mr. Bradlaugh and his opinions—if he had made an appeal to the Opposition on grounds of this kind he would at least have occasioned a stronger and more dignified position, even though changed. It is, indeed, very much to be regretted that any question in the nature of a religious test should have been raised over the oath of allegiance, though it must be admitted that Mr. Bradlaugh himself is mainly responsible for raising it. The oath was never imposed directly for religious purposes, as were former oaths which excluded Catholics. The case of a person wholly devoid of such a belief as would give a meaning to the theistic invocation of the oath was probably not contemplated when the formula was drawn up. It was meant for a declaration of allegiance which would be acceptable to the conscience of all men. Now that it has proved to operate as a religious test the only logical course is to legalise the alternative of affirmation. There are probably few members of the House of Commons, except Mr. Newdegate, who attach any superior validity to a promissory oath as compared with an affirmation to the same effect. But as some persons may object to take the oath, and as the House of Commons may refuse to administer it to others, it is clearly desirable to permit the alternative in all such cases. This is the plain issue now before the House, but in the present condition of public business it may be some time yet before it is given a legislative shape. Mr. Bradlaugh, if he is well-advised, will await the result, with such patience as he can command. Catholics and Jews had to wait a long time for their emancipation, and the constituency of Northampton must console itself with the reflection that the City of London itself had to wait eleven years before one of its representatives was enabled to take his seat.—Times.

The Standard says:—Mr. Bradlaugh's demarcation on Tuesday presented a gratifying contrast to that which he exhibited on former occasions. He would have shown better taste if he had not gone so near as he did, once or twice, to defying the House of Commons. But allowance may fairly be made for the conditions under which he spoke; and it must not be forgotten that the Government, as well as himself, were responsible for the unwelcome prominence of his position. He endeavoured on Tuesday to drive a bargain with the House of Commons. That, of course, he had no right to do, and his effort was so far an impertinence. But he had surely received from the action or inaction of the Government some countenance for the attitude he assumed. It was not the junior member for Northampton, but the Cabinet, that first mooted the idea of what the latter frankly confessed was a "Bradlaugh Relief Bill;" in other words, a measure enabling not only Mr. Labouchere's colleague, but any other member of the House who might subsequently elect to do so, to substitute an Affirmation for the Oath. Mr. Bradlaugh himself had, indeed, no shadow of a title to pose as one of the leading contracting parties. Whatever responsibility there may be for the difficulty in which he is placed belongs to him, and to him alone. He created it when he demurred in the first instance to the customary and solemn formula, and he insulted the intelligence and moral sense of the House when on his re-election for Northampton he demanded that it should ignore his identity. It was, therefore, not for Mr.

Bradlaugh to suggest to the House of Commons the way in which he could most conveniently to himself be relieved of the consequences of his own act. Yet it does follow that the Government were justified in ignoring, as they did, Mr. Bradlaugh's alternative. It would seem, from the tranquil manner in which he vanished from the scene on Tuesday, that he has no wish to provoke a contest with the House. Mr. Bradlaugh did nothing more than remind the Government of what last Session they had indicated their willingness to do. Let them, he said, in effect, introduce and carry a measure enabling all members to substitute an Affirmation for the Oath, and he would be content. He would not even ask that such a Bill should be retrospective in its operation. If the House would only pass it, he would apply for the Chiltern Hundreds, and at once submit himself to the judgment of his Constituents. Whatever of arrogance may be detected in such a suggestion, there is a certain honesty about it, and it deserved at least the recognition of the Prime Minister.

The Daily News observes:—The majority of Tuesday would have voted as they did, no matter how clearly the case might have been made out against them. Mr. Glegg, in "The Mill on the Floss," tied his cravat on a principle higher than that of personal comfort. The Opposition adjusted their action all through the Bradlaugh controversy on some principle higher, we suppose, than that of mere public policy or political dignity. Tuesday's debate and division settled nothing. Much the same is to be said, although not in quite the same sense, of Mr. Gray's motion concerning the arrest of Irish members and the possible infringement of Parliamentary privilege. Nothing could come of the discussion in such a form. The matter will all have to be discussed over again. Unquestionably it ought to be discussed. Mr. Gladstone said so himself emphatically on Tuesday night, in a speech full of quiet dignity and self-command. But it soon became clear as Mr. Gray went on that it could not be profitably debated, or fully debated at all, as a mere question of privilege. The strict and proper limits of such a debate would not allow the House to enter on the only parts of the controversy which are of real moment, or which indeed are really in dispute. Therefore, while we recognise with Mr. Gladstone the importance of the subject, we cannot see how any personal right, political claim, or public interest could have been served by the necessarily imperfect and unsatisfactory discussion of Tuesday night.

THE NEW RULES OF PROCEDURE.

The following is the text of the New Rules of Procedure which were laid on the Table of the House of Commons by Mr. Gladstone on Tuesday evening:—

I.—PROCEDURE.

1. That when it shall appear to Mr. Speaker, or to the Chairman of a Committee of the whole House, during any debate, to be the evident sense of the House, or of the Committee, that the question be now put, he may so inform the House; and if a Motion be made "That the question be now put," Mr. Speaker, or the Chairman, shall forthwith put such question; and, if the same be decided in the affirmative, the question under discussion shall be put forthwith; provided that the question shall be decided in the affirmative, if a division be taken, unless it shall appear to have been supported by more than two hundred members, or to have been opposed by less than forty members.

MOTIONS FOR ADJOURNMENT BEFORE PUBLIC BUSINESS.

2. That no Motion for the Adjournment of the House shall be made, except by leave of the House, before the Orders of the Day, or Notices of Motion have been entered upon.

DEBATES ON MOTIONS FOR ADJOURNMENT.

3. That when a Motion is made for the adjournment of a debate, or of the House, during any debate, or that the Chairman of a Committee do report progress, or do leave the chair, the debate thereupon shall be strictly confined to the matter of such motion; and no member having spoken to any such motion shall be entitled to move or second any similar motion during the same debate or during the same sitting of the Committee.

DIVISIONS.

4. That when, before a Division, the decision of Mr. Speaker, or of the Chairman of a Committee, that the "Ayes" or "Noes" have it, is challenged, Mr. Speaker, or Chairman, may call upon the Members of the Committee to rise in their places; and if they do not exceed twenty, he may forthwith declare the determination of the House, or of the Committee.

IRRELEVANCE OR REPETITION.

5. That Mr. Speaker, or the Chairman of a Committee, may call the attention of the House, or of the Committee, to continued irrelevance, or tedious repetition on the part of a Member; and may direct the Member to discontinue his speech.

POSTPONEMENT OF PRELIMINARY QUESTION.

6. That in Bill introduced by a Bill, the Preliminary question shall stand postponed until after the consideration of the clauses, without question put.

CHAIRMAN TO LEAVE THE CHAIR WITHOUT QUESTION PUT.

7. That when the Chairman of a Committee has been ordered to make a report to the House, he shall leave the chair, without question put.

HALF-PAST TWELVE O'CLOCK RULE.

8. To add to the Standing Order of 18 Feb., 1879, the following words:—"But this Rule shall not apply to the Motion for leave to bring in a bill, nor to any bill which has passed through Committee."

ORDER IN DEBATE.

9. To amend the Standing Order of 23 Feb., 1880, as follows:—"That whenever any member shall have been named by the Speaker, or by the Chairman of a Committee of the whole House, as disregarding the authority of the Chair, or abusing the Rules of the House by persistently and wilfully obstructing the business of the House, or otherwise, then, if the offence has been committed in the House, the Speaker shall forthwith put the Question, on a Motion being made, no amendment, adjournment, or debate being allowed. "That such member be suspended from the service of the House;" and, if the offence has been committed in a Committee of the whole House, the Chairman shall, on a Motion being made, put the same Question in a similar way, and if the motion is carried shall forthwith suspend the proceedings of the Committee, and report the circumstances to the House, and the Speaker shall thereupon put the same Question, without amendment, adjournment, or debate, as if the offence had been committed in the House itself. If any member be suspended in this order, his suspension on the first occasion shall continue for a week, on the second occasion for a month, and on the third occasion for the remainder of the Session, provided always, that nothing in the Resolutions shall be taken to deprive the House of the power of proceeding against any member, according to ancient usages.

DEBATES ON MOTIONS FOR ADJOURNMENT.

10. That if Mr. Speaker, or the Chairman of a Committee of the whole House, shall be

of the opinion that a motion for the adjournment of a debate, or of the House, during any debate, or that the Chairman do report progress, or do leave the Chair, is made for the purpose of obstruction, he may forthwith put the Question thereupon from the chair.

CONSIDERATION OF A BILL AS AMENDED.

11. That on standing orders of the day for the consideration of a Bill as amended, the House do proceed to consider the same without question put, unless the members in charge thereof shall desire to postpone its consideration, or notice has been given to reconsider the Bill.

MOTION ON GOING INTO COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY.

12. That whenever the Committee of Supply appointed for the consideration of the Ordinary Army, Navy, and Civil Service Estimates stands at the first Order of the Day on a Monday, Mr. Speaker, or the Chairman of the Committee, shall put the Question, without putting any question, unless an Amendment be moved or question raised relating to the estimates proposed to be taken in Supply, on first going into Committee on the Army, Navy, and Civil Services respectively.

II.—STANDING COMMITTEES.

STANDING COMMITTEES ON LAW AND COURTS OF JUSTICE, TRADE, ETC.

1. That two standing committees be appointed for the consideration of all bills relating to Law and Courts of Justice and to Trade, Shipping, and Manufactures, which may be committed to them respectively.

NOMINATION BY COMMITTEE OF SELECTION.

2. That the said Standing Committee do consist of a number of members, not more than eighty members, to be nominated by the Committee of Selection, who shall have regard to the classes of bills committed to such committees, to the composition of the House, and to the qualifications of the members selected, and shall have power to add and discharge members from time to time provided the number of eighty be not exceeded.

COMMITMENT AND REPORT OF BILLS.

3. That all bills comprised in each of the said classes shall be committed to one of the said Standing Committees, who shall report thereon otherwise order; and when reported to the House shall be proceeded with as if they had been reported from a committee of the whole House.

THE GARTER MISSION.

The Dresden correspondent of the Times telegraphed on Tuesday:—

No slight flutter was caused here some time ago when it became known that Queen Victoria had signified to King Albert of Saxony her intention to make him a Knight of the most noble Order of the Garter. The Germans love the Monarchical idea—Prince Bismarck has said that each of them, if he could, would keep a King of his own—and the subjects of the lesser States are, therefore, glad of every indication which reminds them that though the Empire has shorn their rulers of much of their former court pomp, it has not wholly extinguished it. King Albert himself was sincerely pleased with the proffer of the English honour. The day's ceremony, which took place in the Throne-room of the Palace, was attended only by the Royal Princes, the King's high military and State officers, and a few specially privileged onlookers. Heralded by fanfares of trumpets, the specification entered the Presence Chamber. The royal recess was brought up by the Earl of Fife and Sir Albert Woods, Garter King of Arms. Advancing to the Throne, the Earl of Fife addressed King Albert in French, explaining his Majesty's intention to make him a Knight of the Garter. The King briefly replied, and the ceremony of investiture was then proceeded with in the usual manner. The King afterwards received the congratulations of his Queen and Court. In the evening the King entertained the mission at a grand banquet.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—TUESDAY.

Business commenced in the House of Commons at four o'clock, when all parts of it for the floor to the roof were densely crowded.

DEBATE ON THE QUEEN'S SPEECH.

Parliament was opened by commission at 2 o'clock, with the usual formalities. The House of Lords having assembled at 4, Lords Tweeddale, Reay, Hothfield, and Tweedmouth took the oath and their seats. At a quarter of five the House rose, and the evening commenced, there was a considerable but not a crowded attendance of peers. The Prince of Wales, the Duke of Edinburgh, and the Duke of Cambridge were in their places on the cross-benches, and the Princess of Wales and the Duchess of Albany were present in the Royal gallery. The peeresses' gallery was almost fully occupied.

Lord FINLAY, in moving the Address in answer to the Queen's Speech, was unusually brief in his comments on the several announcements in the Royal Message. He congratulated the House on the position of our foreign, Indian, and colonial relations, and expressed a hope that the time was approaching when a good understanding would prevail between landlords and tenants in Ireland.

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Sir W. HARCOURT rose and, apologizing for the absence of the Prime Minister—as which there was a cry of "Oh!" and a sarcastic laugh from the Opposition—proceeded to point out that the Government had always held the House to be incompetent to vary the provisions of the statute under which Mr. Bradlaugh claimed to take the oath, or to inquire into the religious opinions of any individual. He therefore moved the "previous question."

Mr. NEWDEGATE protested solemnly against Mr. Bradlaugh's present contention that if he took God's name in vain it would be equivalent to the declaration which the law permitted him to make. He said that he would move the House that Mr. Bradlaugh's opinion should lead him to disregard the fundamental limitations of debate which the oath imposed on other members.

Mr. Bradlaugh was then permitted to address the House, and spoke for some time in support of his claim to take the oath. Much of his speech was personal, and reflected severely on Mr. Newdegate and those who had opposed him and had spoken against him in and out of the House. He denied that he had ever formally repudiated the binding obligation of the oath, and declared emphatically that if permitted to take the oath it would be binding on his conscience. At the close of his speech he offered that if the House would take into its consideration an Affirmation Bill he would stand aside for a reasonable time; and, further, that if it were deprived of all retrospective operation he would engage to apply for the Chiltern Hundreds and to abide by the decision of his constituents.

Commission. Since the Revolution Parliament had never before met under such circumstances as it had that day. The condition of Ireland was unprecedented. Members of the House of Commons were in prison by order of the Minister, and in all about 500 men were in prison without trial under the suspension of the Habeas Corpus Act. In addition to that, the Government, trusting, he presumed, to Parliament for a bill of indemnity—which no doubt would readily be granted—had taken the unprecedented step of seizing in England newspapers of which they did not know the contents. He stated these things to show the utter failure of the policy of the Government. He regretted that the Speech from the Throne did not promise some efficacious measures for the restoration of peace in Ireland, and that the Government did not propose to meet the calamity which their policy had brought upon the Irish landlords.

Lord GRANVILLE commenced by concurring with Lord Salisbury in what he had said about Prince Leopold. He next proceeded to reply to the strictures of the noble marquess on the Irish policy of the Government. He charged Lord Salisbury and his party in England with having, by their language, obstructed the working of the Land Bill, which they had assisted in passing, and with exaggerating the condition of affairs in Ireland, which was sufficiently bad in itself. He denied that the state of disturbance now prevailing in Ireland was unprecedented, and repelled the imputation that the Government had obtained the sanction of Parliament to the Bill by false pretences. He asked whether, if Parliament had known that the general average of rents in Ireland was higher than had been supposed in this country, that would have prevented it from giving its sanction to the Bill. The noble lord explained the action of her Majesty's Government with reference to the Treaty with France. As to Egypt, he said the Government had not been desirous to inaugurate any new policy. He referred to his own despatch, written some months ago, as an exposition of their policy, which was entirely in accordance with that of France. It was the maintenance of the Sovereignty of the Sultan, the maintenance of the authority of the Khedive, and the maintenance of the rights of the people, with a gradual improvement in their condition, all of which objects the Government proposed to effect in a friendly manner, and in agreement with the other Powers of Europe.

The Duke of SOMERSET expressed his opinion that the question in Ireland was not one of rebels, but one of open rebellion, which the Government had taken no effectual measures to suppress.

Lord WATERFORD contended that there was not that improvement in the state of Ireland for which Ministers claimed credit in the Speech from the Throne. He strongly condemned the administration of the Land Bill, remarking that if it were administered in accordance with time-honoured English notions there would be no confiscation. If Government did not take some step in the matter he would at some future time move for a Select Committee on the subject.

Lord CARLINGFORD, while admitting that some of the Irish agitators wanted the separation of Ireland from England, held that the question with which the Government had to deal was not a question of rebellion, but a question of considerable length the working of the Land Act.

Lord DONOUGHMORE made some hostile criticisms on the Act, by which, he said, the large majority of the Irish landlords would be greatly crippled.

Lord VANEVEN argued that a larger staff of Commissioners ought to be appointed to administer the Land Act.

The motion for the Address having been agreed to, their lordships adjourned at 9 o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—TUESDAY.

Business commenced in the House of Commons at four o'clock, when all parts of it for the floor to the roof were densely crowded. The Speaker took the chair, after the new writ for Westminster had been read, and called on the new members desiring to take their seats to come to the table. Nine of the members elected during the recess—Mr. Salt, Mr. Jenkins, Mr. Bulwer, Mr. J. Lowther, Mr. Jenkins, Mr. Jennings, Mr. Dickson, Mr. Davison, and Mr. Ash—accordingly came forward and took the oath in the usual form, Mr. Raikes and Mr. J. Lowther in particular being loudly cheered.

After this Mr. Bradlaugh, who had been standing at the Bar, advanced to the table, and took the oath, and then took the New Testament in his hand, when he said:—

Sir STAFFORD NORTHCOTE rose, loudly cheered from the Opposition benches, to submit a resolution which, he said, was almost identical with that agreed to on April 26 last. It was to the effect that the House of Commons, in the position of the House of Commons, and Mr. Bradlaugh remained the same as last year, he briefly recounted the history of the case at each of its re-appearances since the commencement, and moved that, having regard to the resolutions passed in 1880 and 1881, the House do resolve that Mr. Bradlaugh, Mr. Bradlaugh be not permitted to go through the form of taking the oath.

Before the debate proceeded further the SPEAKER directed Mr. Bradlaugh to withdraw below the Bar, which he did, appealing to the House to hear him before he came to his decision. After this, Mr. Gladstone rose having arrived.

Sir W. HARCOURT rose and, apologizing for the absence of the Prime Minister—as which there was a cry of "Oh!" and a sarcastic laugh from the Opposition—proceeded to point out that the Government had always held the House to be incompetent to vary the provisions of the statute under which Mr. Bradlaugh claimed to take the oath, or to inquire into the religious opinions of any individual. He therefore moved the "previous question."

Mr. NEWDEGATE protested solemnly against Mr. Bradlaugh's present contention that if he took God's name in vain it would be equivalent to the declaration which the law permitted him to make. He said that he would move the House that Mr. Bradlaugh's opinion should lead him to disregard the fundamental limitations of debate which the oath imposed on other members.

Mr. Bradlaugh was then permitted to address the House, and spoke for some time in support of his claim to take the oath. Much of his speech was personal, and reflected severely on Mr. Newdegate and those who had opposed him and had spoken against him in and out of the House. He denied that he had ever formally repudiated the binding obligation of the oath, and declared emphatically that if permitted to take the oath it would be binding on his conscience. At the close of his speech he offered that if the House would take into its consideration an Affirmation Bill he would stand aside for a reasonable time; and, further, that if it were deprived of all retrospective operation he would engage to apply for the Chiltern Hundreds and to abide by the decision of his constituents.

Some observations from Lord PEARCE and Mr. Labouchere, who urged the Opposition to accept the offer of his colleague.

inasmuch as by agreeing to it the House would simply declare that this was a matter with which it had no right to deal, and which it preferred to leave to the Courts of Law to deal with. This the Government held to be the wise and legal course under the circumstances; and while he protested against Sir Stafford Northcote's appeal to profanation, he pointed out that it was a profanation to depart from the strict line of justice.

After a short discussion, in which Mr. E. Clarke, Mr. Hubbard, Mr. O'Donnell, and Colonel Makins took part on one side, and Mr. Sturges-Burton, Mr. Simon, the other, House divided, and negatived the "previous question," or, in other words, decided that "the question be now put," by 286 to 278. This result was received with loud and prolonged cheering from the Opposition.

After this Sir S. Northcote's resolution was carried without a division. Mr. Bradlaugh again advanced to the Table, and, being informed by the Speaker of the decision just arrived at by the House and directed to withdraw, respectfully refused. Upon this the SPEAKER appealed to the House for further instructions, and after a pause, during which the Opposition called for "Gladstone" and the Ministerials for "Northcote,"

Sir S. NORTHCOTE rose and moved formally that Mr. Bradlaugh be directed to withdraw, and Mr. Gladstone, regarding it as a consequential motion, said he did not intend to oppose it. It was carried without a division, and Mr. Bradlaugh, being again directed to withdraw, said he did not think it dignified to enter into a conflict with the House, and he therefore, withdrew below the Bar. At this there was a general cheer, and Mr. Bradlaugh took his seat at the Bar, where he remained for some time.

OTHER BUSINESS.

Subsequently an immense number of notices of motion were given, among them one by Mr. Gladstone, of the Resolutions relating to the procedure which he will submit to the House on Monday next; and by other members of the Cabinet of some of the bills mentioned in the Speech from the Throne.

Mr. GRAY next raised, as a question of privilege, and moved the appointment of a Select Committee to inquire into the circumstances under which Mr. Parnell and three other members of the House had been consigned to Kilmainham Gaol under the provisions of the Protection of Person and Property (Ireland) Act. This was rejected by 174 to 145.

The Queen's Speech was then read by the SPEAKER, and the Address in reply thereto was moved by Mr. Marjoribanks, and seconded by Mr. Frith.

At the motion of Sir S. NORTHCOTE, the debate was adjourned, and the House rose a few minutes before midnight.

COURT AND FASHIONABLE NEWS.

OSBORNE, TUESDAY.

The Queen drove out yesterday afternoon, attended by the Dowager Duchess of Roxburgh and the Hon. Horatia Stopford. This morning her Majesty walked and drove with Princess Beatrice.

The Duchess of Connaught has continued to improve in health ever since her arrival at Windsor Castle.

The Cheshire Hounds met at Marbury village on Tuesday, but to the disappointment of many, the Empress of Austria was not present. After finishing with Sir Watkin's hounds on Monday her Majesty had a couple of hours with the draghounds about the village of Marbury.

Lord VANEVEN argued that a larger staff of Commissioners ought to be appointed to administer the Land Act.

The motion for the Address having been agreed to, their lordships adjourned at 9 o'clock.

POLITICAL AND SOCIAL ITEMS.

(FROM THE "DAILY NEWS.")

We understand that Mr. Bradlaugh, whilst determined to press his claim to take the oath, has not made any fixed arrangement for re-appearance in the House.

The division on the admission of Mr. Bradlaugh to the House of Commons was swayed by the adhesion of the Irish members, who voted in a body against the Government. This goes some way towards explaining the increased majority, some of the Irish members having voted the other way when previously the same resolution was brought before the House.

In the division on Mr. Gray's motion in the House of Commons on Tuesday night the following Liberals and Conservatives voted in the minority.—Mr. Thompson, Mr. Cowen, Mr. Storey, Mr. Gourley, Capt. Aymer, Mr. C. Lewis, Mr. Dawney, Mr. Cohen, Mr. R. N. Fowler, Mr. Burt, Mr. Collings, Mr. R. Ritchie, Mr. Labouchere.

We understand that reports with reference to outrages on the Jews in Russia have been received by the British Consuls at Warsaw and Odessa, and that her Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburg has also made some inquiries into the subject.

We hear that Mr. Gladstone has declined to receive a deputation on the option question.

(FROM THE "STANDARD.")

It is not expected that the debate on the Address will be concluded before Friday. The Government have not yet decided what course they will take in regard to the Oath question; but it is probable that after the Procedure resolutions are disposed of they will introduce a bill allowing members to affirm.

A pamphlet, "How to become the Owner of your Farm," which was recently issued by the Irish Land Commission, has been suppressed. It is not yet known how many copies were allowed to get into circulation before its true character was discovered. The pamphlet appears primarily to rest with the Secretary to the Commission, who, however, states that he sanctioned its being printed on the recommendation of a brother official, and without any knowledge of its contents. An inquiry has been instituted at the Stationery Office, in order to ascertain how it was that the brochure was permitted to pass through that department without some intimation as to its character being conveyed to the Commissioners. It is certainly remarkable that a Government department should have been the instrument for disseminating the very words and doctrines of an illegal organization, the leaders of which are at this moment in Kilmainham Gaol.

MR. FORSTER'S "EXPLOSIVE LETTER."

The Dublin correspondent of the Standard wrote on Thursday night:—"The explosive letter" addressed to Mr. Forster at Dublin Castle consisted of an ordinary white square envelope, and contained a quantity of iodine

of nitrogen, about one scruple and a half in weight, wrapped in a piece of paper such as that used for enclosing powders in a chemist's shop. Outside this was a piece of blotting paper, and there was a third covering of paper, and the envelope had an intended crease at the back, which indicated where such envelopes were to be procured. It was this latter fact which caused the news of the letter having been sent to be kept so profound a secret. The police were making inquiries which they believed might lead to the identification of the sender. Their efforts, however, have been quite unavailing. Fortunately, during the passage of the letter through the Post Office, the stamp impression did not strike that portion of the envelope containing the explosive. It is believed that the letter passed through the sorter's hands about ten minutes past five on Wednesday morning. Mr. Forster had left for London by the mail the previous evening, but this circumstance could not have been known to the sender, as the announcement only appeared in the morning journals. The letter, when it reached the Castle in the Post Office box at nine o'clock, had acquired on the address side a deep discoloration, obscuring everything except "The Right Hon. W. E. Forster." The iodine of nitrogen had been put in wet, the sender evidently believing that blotting paper would have prevented it oozing through. The substance was harmless in a damp state, but when it becomes dry it will explode by the heat of the hand and exposure to the temperature of an ordinarily heated room. The letter was put into the hands of the police, who, after careful removal of a portion of the paper, found that when it dried it exploded spontaneously. They gave the letter and its contents to a chemist connected with one of the public institutions of the city, who made a careful analysis, showing the character of the paste. It must have been thought by the sender that the chemical would have become perfectly dry, and, therefore, highly explosive, by the time the letters came to be opened at the Castle. The analytical chemist declares that the calculation was well founded, for the state would have been reached in less than an hour after the discovery was made. He further states that recently, in his own laboratory, a much smaller quantity than the envelope contained exploded and shattered the glass in a window near. He can scarcely be doubted that if the letter was opened suddenly by tearing it quickly, or by sharply pressing a paper-knife through it, had the iodine been dry, there would have been a violent explosion. The lapel side of the envelope was not at all discoloured, though newspapers in the post-box became stained by contact with the address side. Mr. Forster has been accustomed to receive threatening letters, within the past twelve months no fewer than four hundred of these missives having reached him.

LONDON GOSSIP.

(FROM THE "WORLD.")

One of the most brilliant successes of the season in the Royal circles has been scored by the Hon. Mrs. J. T. Fitzmaurice in a fancy-dress ball given on Wednesday night, in aid of the Maidenhead Cottage Hospital, of which institution her husband has just been re-elected president. The occasion brought together the rank, beauty, and wealth of a wide district. Over 200 acceptances rewarded Mrs. Fitzmaurice's efforts, and the new Town-hall was crowded. Of the dresses, it need only be said that they were mostly in excellent taste, and eschewed ostentation. Among the most admired were Lady Evelyn Fitzmaurice, as Moonlight; Mrs. Lady Evelyn Fitzmaurice, as the Marquis de Bland; Lady

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A Great Britain.

LONDON, FEBRUARY 9-10, 1882.

MR. GLADSTONE AND THE CLOTURE.

Sir Stafford Northcote gave notice on Thursday evening that when the Prime Minister brings forward his Resolutions regarding the Procedure of the House he shall oppose the First, embodying the *Closure*. Mr. Marriott, one of the Liberal members for Brighton, has also given notice of an Amendment to the effect that no Rule of Procedure can be considered satisfactory which confers the power of closing the Debate on a bare majority of members. In fact, the more Mr. Gladstone's first "new Rule" is considered, the more the certainty grows that the House of Commons will refuse its assent to it. The whole drift of public opinion is clearly and resolutely against it: it is faintly defended by a few timid Ministerialist journals, and vigorously denounced everywhere else. Nor is there anything in the state of public affairs to warrant so extensive a suppression of the rights and liberties of Parliament as Mr. Gladstone now proposes; for although the difficulties which impeded legislation are in themselves a great evil, the endowment of the Ministry with an absolute and despotic authority would be a far greater one, and only to be borne under the pressure of some tremendous national crisis such as was held by the ancient Romans to justify a Dictatorship. To pretend that such an innovation is necessary to ensure a speedier passage of Bankruptcy Bills, or County Board Bills, or Rivers Conservancy Bills, is an outrage on the public common sense. The proposal is nothing less than to confer on the Government of the day the power of terminating Debates exactly as they choose, by the fiat of a bare majority. The sham conditions by which the proposal is accompanied only make matters worse, because they show that the authors of it are aware of its arbitrary character. When less than forty members oppose the application of the *Closure*, this opposition may be overruled by any majority whatsoever. If thirty-eight are against it, thirty-nine can silence them. It is only when the minority exceeds forty that a show of moderation is introduced by the provision that the majority in that case must number more than two hundred members. Thus, if the minority be forty, the majority must be two hundred and one; but then if the minority be two hundred, the majority must be four hundred and one; and if the minority be three hundred, the majority must be six hundred and one. In the same way, two hundred and fifty could silence two hundred and forty-nine; three hundred could silence two hundred and ninety-nine; and that, too, without debate or protest. The limitation imposed is a mere form, which, in so far as it masks the real nature of the Rule, only makes it more dangerous. As the Minister will always have the required number at his disposal—for one who has not must very soon cease to be Minister—it is clear that if the Rule is passed, the freedom of speech so long enjoyed by members of the House of Commons will be placed entirely at the mercy of one man; and what is really the final cause of Parliamentary Government will cease to exist. Now, we must remind the country that this particular policy, which is the boast of Englishmen to have maintained, has not been maintained so long for the sake of legislation, but for the sake of liberty. We cannot allow the second to be sacrificed to the first, and at any cost the House of Commons is bound to reject this innovation. It cannot be entertained for a moment. If it were to be adopted there would be very little necessity for the other eleven rules which Mr. Gladstone has added to it. Absolute master of the debates, the leader of the House would arrange business as he pleased, and he would generally be able to bend private members to his will by threatening to stop discussion unless they submitted to his will.—*Standard*.

THE QUEEN'S VISIT TO MENTONE.

The statement has been made, apparently with a political motive, that the Queen's projected visit to Mentone is suggested by failing health, occasioned by political anxiety, and especially by distress as to the state of Ireland. Our readers will hear with satisfaction that there is no foundation for this representation with regard either to the mental or physical condition of the Queen. No one can wonder that the Queen should desire to exchange a few of the bleak and gloomy weeks of an English spring for the bright sunshine and clear air of the Riviera. A residence at Mentone, such as the Court Circular announces that her Majesty intends to make, from March till immediately after Easter, is till the second week of April, will cut out, as it were, the very core of our season of easterly winds and March dust, and diminish the discomforts of a British winter in a sensible degree. The Queen mentions her intention of preserving a strict incognito during her stay abroad, and no doubt the deliberate sincerity of this resolve will be recognised by all foreign authorities and carefully carried out. Were it otherwise the little tour could scarcely be looked upon as a refreshing or reposeful holiday. The wish to escape from notice, which though always loyal and respectful may be often very troublesome and tiring, is probably one of the Queen's motives for taking a holiday abroad. There are others suf-

ficiently conceivable, however, even to persons who possess Highland castles and villas by the shores of southern England. The complete change of climate supplies a tonic not to be obtained by Britons within the bounds of their own four seas. The change may not be from cold to warmth. On the contrary, it is probable England has during the present remarkable winter enjoyed an average higher temperature than many wintering places in the South of Europe. But the brightness of the sunshine, the clearness of the air, they enjoy are something quite unfamiliar in our beloved island. They are enough in themselves to animate the spirits and excite the mind. They make physical exercise a joy, mere existence a pleasure. There is something to be said with truth against every individual town or village on the south line of the French coast. Cannes and Mentone are dull, and have only lately freed themselves from sanitary supervision. Nice is not dull, but neither is it safe for invalids, from a climatic point of view, owing to its exposure to cold winds. Mentone is wicked, but whatever their defects as points of residence may be, the enchanting roads which lead from one to the other cause them all to be forgotten. If Monaco be wicked, it is with the wickedness of paradise. Nature has done such wonders there, man has not been able to deface them. On the surface, indeed, he has co-operated with her as far as in him lay to produce a perfect result. More lovely gardens are not to be found than those from which the visitor may survey some of the loveliest sea views in Europe. He needs not gamble, though it has been hinted that those guests at the big hotel are most welcome who most risk their luck at the tables. He is provided with admirable reading-rooms and delightful concerts. Under it all squirms the serpent, but a residence of a week or two will not hurt the tenderest conscience. A delightful excursion, not very well-known or very often made, is out to the end of the promontory of Antibes. The view thence is exactly the reverse of that from San Carlo. The coast line right and left divides the blue sea from the lovely green shores in curving lines, the vine and olive-clad hills slope gently upwards crowned with their rock-built villages, and behind all rise the snowy Maritime Alps, looking as if they stood there to guard their Italy, which they have not known how to guard. That view is one which remains indelible in the memory. The man who should travel blindfold there and back again from the heart of a London fog, allowed to gaze and fix it on his heart for the space of half an hour, would not have paid too dearly for his gain. No, it may not be gained for the honour of Kensington or the Order of St. Patrick, but it is a very good thing to go away from the winter and early spring. It is for English people at any rate (and for some Americans) the best place in the world to live in, but not just at this time of year. What it might be if we consumed our own smoke in another sense from personal consumption of it down our throats is another thing. We in the big towns might then see the sun at other times than in the height of summer, we might know the sky was blue on more exact authority than the assertion of the poets, we might have the nightingales back in London, we might escape the rasping sore throat now threatening to be national and chronic. But even then we should miss much that the sojourn at Mentone will find, and find this year, we trust, in even unusual abundance. The soft refreshing air, the brilliant sunbeams, the softest of blue skies, the blue character and luxuriance, the sea bluer, sweeter, calmer than that even which washes our fair Devonshire or Cornwall coasts—all these have a power to soothe and charm peculiar to themselves. Joined to complete abandonment of work, release from responsibility, and cessation from tedious ceremonial, they will, as is the nation's cordial hope, give the Queen the perfect rest and enjoyment they offer to the open eyes and disengaged mind.—*Daily News*.

POLITICAL AND SOCIAL ITEMS.

(FROM THE "STANDARD.")

The Queen has been pleased to signify her intention of conferring upon Lord Salisbury the Order of the Garter, and the Order of St. Patrick, in the room of the late Lord Lurgan. We believe that a large number of members on the Liberal side of the House object to the Rule regarding the closing of Debate, for the reason that it would enable themselves to induce the Government to make it less stringent in its character. Information has been received that Mr. Fottrell, the Solicitor to the Irish Land Commission, who was responsible for the issue of the pamphlet which attracted attention has been drawn in these columns, has resigned his office. The bills referring to the Channel Tunnel will, we understand, be referred to the Special Committee, partly nominated by the House of Commons, and partly by the Committee of Selection. It is expected that the Committee will take evidence on the military part of the question.

(FROM THE "DAILY NEWS.")

In connection with the new rules which Mr. Gladstone will submit to the House of Commons on Monday next, we learn that Mr. Ashton Dilke intends to move that the number of Standing Committees proposed shall be increased from two to five, and that the new Committees shall deal respectively with Irish and Scotch questions, and with the Budget. Sir George Campbell has already given notice of a Committee for Scotland, and Mr. Dilwyn will also probably propose the appointment of a Budget or Financial Committee.

If the House agrees to the Prime Minister's resolution appointing Standing Committees, it is, we believe, intended to find accommodation for them by causing two committee-rooms upstairs to be temporarily thrown into one by means of a movable partition. It will be observed that the rules of procedure of which Mr. Gladstone has given notice makes no provision for dealing with the modern extension of what is known as the question-hour. It is probable that an attempt will be made to remedy this omission by an amendment.

Another matter left unprovided for is the practice of vexatious counting, which so far as the session has gone has been of nightly occurrence, as it was last session. The occurrence of the House will also be called to this matter by an amendment, moved by a private member. We understand that the Home Secretary does not intend to introduce this session a Water Bill for the metropolis. This will be a matter for consideration after the passing of a measure for the reform of Metropolitan Government. The President of the Board of Trade will not move for leave to introduce the Bankruptcy Bill till after the new rules of procedure have been disposed of. Nor will any other Ministerial measures in the meantime be advanced.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—THURSDAY.

The Lord Chancellor took his seat on the Woolsack shortly before five o'clock.

THE LAND COMMISSION AND THE OATH.

LORD LONGFORD moved for a copy of a letter addressed to him by the Secretary of the Irish Land Commission, in explanation of the circumstances in which the pamphlet entitled "How to become the owner of your farm," was printed at the Queen's printing office, Dublin. In doing so he took occasion to condemn some of the notices issued by the Land Commission.

Mr. MONROE, from a long knowledge of the Secretary of the Irish Land Commission, bore testimony to that gentleman's general efficiency in the public service.

LORD CARLISLE said there would be no objection to that production of the letter, but a correspondence for which he intended to move would put the House in much fuller possession of all the circumstances relating to the publication of "How to become the owner of your farm."

The motion was agreed to.

THE JEW IN RUSSIA.

The Duke of Somerset asked whether the Secretary of State could communicate to the House any recent information relating to the treatment of the Jews in Russia. LORD GRANVILLE thought it hardly necessary to claim for the Government of which he was a member that they sympathised with the views of oppression wherever the latter might be found, and it was needless to say that their sympathy would not be less in a case in which the victims were of the Jewish race; but as to diplomatic interference by us, such a matter was precluded by the fact that we did not permit such interference by any other Power in reference to British subjects. However, putting aside the question of right, he did not think that anything could be more inexpedient than official representations. As to private communications, he was sure that no one in the place of Foreign Minister would omit any suitable opportunity of making them; but public communications on those representations would, of course, entirely characterize their character. Our consuls had communicated to him, and he now begged to lay on the table a copy of correspondence connected with those outrages.

LORD SALISBURY concurred with the Secretary for Foreign Affairs in thinking that official representations as to those outrages would be of very doubtful utility.

LORD STANFORD said of the same opinion; but thought the few words said on the subject that evening would do good in the case of the oppressed Jews.

Their Lordships adjourned at 10 minutes to 6 o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—THURSDAY.

The Speaker took the chair at four o'clock.

THE RULES OF PROCEDURE.

SIR S. NORTHGOTE gave notice that when the Prime Minister's Resolutions regarding the Procedure of the House were brought forward, he would oppose the first, which relates to the *Closure*. On the same subject, Mr. SEXTON gave notice that before the debate began he would move a "call of the House." Mr. A. BALFOUR gave notice that he will move to defer the *Closure* resolution until the other resolutions have been moved.

Mr. MARRIOTT, from the Liberal benches, gave notice that he will move a counter resolution declaring that no rule will be satisfactory which closes debate by a bare majority.

HONOURS AND APPOINTMENTS.

In answer to Mr. Broadhurst, Mr. GLADSTONE stated that her Majesty has been pleased to confer the rank of Privy Counsellor on Sir H. Robinson, and also to create Sir E. Wood a G.C.M.G. and Sir H. de Villiers a K.C.M.G. In addition to these honours, the dignity of a G.C.M.G. has been accepted by President Adams, subject to the consent of the Volskard.

THE OUTRAGES ON THE JEWS IN RUSSIA.

In answer to a question from Mr. Serjeant SIMON, Mr. GLADSTONE said the Government did not think it would be expedient to make any formal representation to the Russian Government in regard to the outrages on the Jews; and in answer to Sir J. HAY, who suggested the constitutional alternative of dissolution or resignation, he said the Government did not intend to take any steps in regard to the division of Tuesday.

THE ADDRESS.

The adjourned debate on Mr. P. J. Smyth's Home Rule amendment to the Address was resumed by Mr. Dawson, who, speaking as the Lord Mayor of Dublin, pointed out the inconvenience of the present system, and was continued by Mr. T. D. SULLIVAN, who declared that law and order would never prevail in Ireland until the Irish people made their own laws. Mr. Molloy went into details of the system which the Home Rule party desired to substitute for the present connexion between the two countries, and described the manner in which local affairs would be confided to the Irish Parliament and Imperial matters to the Parliament in London, without impairing the integrity of the Government.

Mr. O'DONNELL, who stated that there would be no rest in Ireland until it was converted from a province into a nation. At this point Mr. P. J. SMYTH offered to withdraw his amendment, but the Irish members would not permit this; and Mr. GLADSTONE, after expressing his regret at this refusal, said, with regard to local self-government in Ireland, the Government, while they had been reluctantly compelled to postpone the measure they had contemplated on the subject, were thoroughly alive to the importance of the question.

As to the wider question of a separate Legislature, he remarked that the discussion had revealed great discrepancies between the supporters of the movement as to what its real object was, and he advised them that their very first step must be to make up their minds as to how and by what authority the functions of the two Legislatures were to be defined, and local distinguished from Imperial matters.

Mr. M. HENRY thought that the difficulties would not turn out to be so great as they seemed, and only to have local self-government to them; and Mr. O'DONNELL remarked that, however formidable the objections to Home Rule might be, they were not so great as the objections to the present system. Home Rule did not involve separation, for the Irish meant not only to have local self-government for themselves, but to get their share in the government of the English and Scotch.

Mr. EVART protested that the loyal men in Ireland would maintain the Imperial connexion with their lives, and Mr. PLUNKET protested against the Prime Minister's invitation to the Irish members to reopen the Home Rule agitation.

Mr. SEXTON made a bitter personal attack on Mr. Ewart and Mr. Plunket, and thanked the Prime Minister for showing the Irish members to be unworthy of the confidence of the justice and practicability of their scheme. The amendment was then negatived by 93 to 37.

Mr. MC CARTHY next moved an amendment of great length, setting forth the action of the Irish Executive under the Coercion Acts, and concluding with a declaration that an immediate abandonment of all coercive measures and the establishment of Constitutional Government in Ireland are essentially necessary for the peace and prosperity of the United Kingdom. Dealing chiefly with the arrest of Mr. Parnell, he read numerous extracts from his speeches since the prorogation to show that he had never advocated the non-payment of rent, nor the rejection of the Land Act. On the contrary, he had recommended that it should be tested; he had used his influence invariably in favour of order; and in reference to the "prairie value," for which he had been so much censured, Mr. McCarthy showed that it was borrowed from a speech of Mr. Bright. Considering how the Irish people had been deceived by the Liberal party, it was no wonder that there should be discontent approaching even to disaffection in Ireland, but by suppressing the Land League and arresting its principal members the Government had deprived themselves of the most potent means of preserving order, and were responsible for all that had occurred since.

Mr. W. E. FORSTER commenced his defence of his administration by confessing that he had been compelled to put his exceptional powers into execution more largely than he had expected. Mr. Parnell's relations were less than he had been prepared to allow the country to drift into a condition of excitement which might have led to civil war. He also read extracts from Mr. Parnell's speeches, which he contended proved that his designs were not so harmless as Mr. McCarthy had represented. It was not, however, for the advice which he had given that Mr. Parnell was arrested, but for the means taken to enforce it, the intimidation, boycotting, outrages, and murders by which the Land League coerced the people to conform to their orders.

These practices Mr. Forster related some striking instances, contending that as they could not be punished by the ordinary law, the Government were driven to these arrests, unless they were prepared to allow the Land League to become the real government of Ireland. He admitted that he had been some time in making what Mr. Parnell's intentions were, but as soon as he felt convinced in his conscience that that gentleman was guilty of inciting to intimidation he advised the arrests. As to the "reasonable practices," though he believed that an organized attempt to substitute private Courts for the Queen's Courts was a reasonable practice, the arrests on that head were made because of speeches which, if permitted to go on, would have brought about a state of feeling certain to end in civil war. In the same manner the Land League was suppressed, and he contended that it was an intimidating organization, and that its members were guilty of intimidation. Of these reasonable practices, and of the acts of violence by which the "No rent" manifesto was enforced, Mr. Forster gave the House numerous specimens; and passing to the present situation he contended that a confident belief that things were getting better. Landlords were collecting their rents; farmers were finding out that they had been misled by the Land League; and juries were doing their duty. At the same time, the signs of improvement were not sufficient to justify any relaxation of vigilance or to permit the release of the prisoners. At the close of his speech Mr. Forster made some remarks in vindication of the Land Act, which, he said, was beginning to have an effect; and in justifying the character and general conduct of the Government.

Mr. COCHRANE, who expressed a very decided opinion that the rents in Ireland had turned out to be larger than the House anticipated when the Act was under discussion.

The debate was adjourned on the motion of Mr. BENDISH.

The Attorney-General brought in the Corrupt Practices at Elections Bill, and several other Bills were brought in and read a first time.

The House was counted out at 10 minutes to 3 o'clock.

COURT AND FASHIONABLE NEWS.

OSBORNE, THURSDAY.

The Queen and Princess Beatrice dined yesterday afternoon, attended by the Dowager and Duchess of Roxburgh, and her Majesty walked and drove this morning with the Princess. The Earl of Kenmare, K.P., Lord Chamberlain, arrived at Osborne to-day, and had an audience of the Queen at 11 o'clock. The Duke of Devonshire, in reply to the Speech from the Throne. Mrs. Drummond of Megginch arrived at Osborne yesterday, and had the honour of dining with her Majesty. The Hon. Frances Drummond has succeeded the Hon. Ethel Cadogan as Maid of Honour in Waiting.

According to present arrangements says the *Morning Post*, the Queen, accompanied by Princess Beatrice, will embark at Portsmouth about March 15, in the steam yacht *Victoria* and *Albert*, and, escorted by the *Alberta* tender, *Enchantress*, Admiralty yacht, and the *Galatea*, Trinity House yacht, proceed to Cherbourg, whence the journey will be completed by special train. The return journey will be performed in the middle of April, to enable her Majesty to be in England on the marriage of Prince Leopold, Duke of Albany.

The Prince and Princess of Wales, attended by Lady Emily Kingscote and the Hon. E. Lytton, went to Windsor on Thursday morning to visit the Duke and Duchess of Connaught at Windsor Castle. The Prince and Princess remained to luncheon, and returned to London in the afternoon.

A Court correspondent says: "The Duchess of Connaught has benefited by the change from Bagshot to Windsor Castle. Although still weak, her health has much improved, and her Royal Highness continues to progress favourably towards convalescence."

The *Lancet* says: "We understand that the Duchess of Connaught's sudden removal on Sunday from Bagshot to Windsor was in consequence of the unsatisfactory state of the sanitary arrangements at Bagshot Park. For some weeks very offensive smells have been observed about the house, and it is supposed that the Duchess has suffered from obscure forms of indisposition. Her Royal Highness had made an excellent convalescence for nearly three weeks after her confinement, when she developed symptoms which were thought to depend on poisoning by sewer gas. On investigation it was found that a large supply from a disused closet had been simply cut through by a careless workman, and its open end, leading directly into the main drain, was left immediately under the flooring close to the central hall, and thus a continuous stream of gas was found into the house. Dr. Playfair advised that her Royal Highness should be removed to Windsor without delay, to get her out of the infected atmosphere. On Sunday Sir William Jenner met him in consultation by her Majesty's command, and, completely concurring in this view, the removal was at once effected. Happily a very decided improvement in her Royal Highness's condition is already apparent, and her symptoms no longer cause serious anxiety."

The Marquis and Marchioness of Bath and family arrived at their residence in Berkeley-square on Thursday, from Longleat, Wiltshire.

The Earl and Countess of Erne arrived at their residence in Eaton-square on Thursday, from Crom Castle, Newtown Butler, Ireland.

The Earl and Countess of Darley have left their residence in Hill-street, Berkeley-square, for Cobham Hall, Kent.

Earl and Countess Granville had a dinner party at their residence on Carlton-house-terrace on Wednesday night. Afterwards Lady Granville had a small and early reception.

Earl Bathurst has left town for Cirencester House, Cirencester.

The *Morning Post* says that the Earl of Wiltton, according to a private letter, received yesterday afternoon from Melrose, was, since his release on Tuesday last, not worse, but his lordship is very weak from the confinement to his bed. Lord Wiltton has been suffering more or less from the

gout since the 15th of last month. No bulletin or telegraphic statement has been issued at his lordship's house in Grosvenor-square. Inquiries from the members of the Royal Family and many personal friends have been made, but no further information was obtained. Six years ago Lord Wiltton, then in London, was for several weeks in a critical condition, and then suffered from extreme debility, but he pulled through, and his friends hope that he may do so now. It was stated at an inquiry at Egerton Lodge, Melton Mowbray, on Thursday night, that the Earl of Wiltton was still in a very critical condition, though he had regained strength to some extent. Altogether there was a decided improvement.

Lord and Lady Tenterden entertained at dinner on Wednesday last, at their residence in Portland-place, his Excellency the German Ambassador, his Excellency the Austrian Ambassador and Countess Karolyi, Count Herbert Bismarck, Earl and Countess of Derby and Lady Margaret Cecil, Earl of Redesdale, the Prime Minister, Mrs. and Miss Gladstone, Lord and Lady Sudley, the Right Hon. G. J. Goschen, M.P., and Mrs. Goschen, Sir Arthur Hayer, M.P., and Lady Hayer, Hon. Miss Abbott, Mrs. Maxwell, and Mr. Sandeson. Lady Tenterden afterwards had a reception, which was attended by the Ambassadors and leading members of the Corps Diplomatique, and by a numerous and fashionable assembly.

The Bishop of Peterborough is indisposed, and has been compelled to leave Leicester, where a Church mission is being held.

The marriage of Hon. Arthur Henniker, Colonel of the Guards, and Hon. Florence Milnes will take place shortly after Easter.

The death is announced of the Hon. Douglas Edward Holroyd, brother of the Earl of Sheffield. The deceased gentleman has been staying at Brighton for the last few months, and succumbed yesterday to an attack of paralysis from which he had been suffering. He was 48 years of age.

THE PERSECUTION OF THE JEWS IN RUSSIA.

The following pastoral has been issued by Dr. Adler, the Chief Rabbi:—"Beloved Brethren,—A persecution great and terrible has come upon the members of the house of Israel in Russia, and their tribulation is great. In many places they have lost all their substance: in others their lives have become the prey of their enemies; deeds of violence have been committed on defenceless children. The laws of their country, from which they expected protection, have been powerless to save them from the fury of the populace, and thus our brethren in that land are not only overwhelmed with past misfortunes, but tremble at the possibility that may yet come upon them. Many have taken to flight, scattering with naught but their lives. This pitiable tale of woe has reached these shores, and has moved the hearts of our Christian fellow-countrymen to lift up their voice in solemn protest against such outrages and oppression. They have also given utterance to their sympathy in words aglow with brotherly love and tender pity. And with the fruit of their lips they have brought the gift of their hands for the relief of suffering. Verily the memory of their words and actions, and the aid which they have thus rendered to us and our children for ever. For the hope is kindled within us that these words will take wing and will reach the heart of the Ruler of Russia and his counsellors, so that they will have compassion upon the oppressed and that they will be moved to take steps to protect our brethren in that land. The duty is incumbent on us, by our willingness to make sacrifices, that we recognise our brotherhood towards those who suffer. Great and urgent is their need. The victims are numbered by the thousands; many thousands have fled from the land of sorrow, and tens of thousands will follow them. We must aid them to migrate to distant and happier lands. We must help them to gain subsistence there for themselves and their children by the labour of their hands. We must see that they are not reduced to poverty and despair. We must, with all earnestness, to bring your offerings in bounty and in plenty, with a generous heart and an unstinting hand. How can we, who live in safety and happiness in this dear land, endure to see the tribulation of our brethren without trying to help them? How can we, whose lines have fallen in pleasant places, bear to hear of the sufferings of those who are without home and shelter, without raiment and bread, and forbear to open wide our hand to them? Surely you are still, as ever, sons of mercy. In mercy, then, hearken to the cry of suffering, and hasten to answer it. Say not the evil is distant; we will shut our ears, because the cry cometh from afar off; but, thinking God that such aid will be given to you and from your homes, prove the greatness of your gratitude by the greatness of your help. And may the Lord vouchsafe to you His blessing and establish the work of your hands."

PERSONATING NOBLEMEN.—At the Birmingham police-court on Thursday, Mary Jane Fearnoux, who gave her age as 43, but was considered to be nearly 50, was charged with obtaining by fraud various sums of money, amounting in the aggregate to between £2,000 and £7,000. The prisoner, who had been brought from Liverpool the previous day, was attired in a Newmarket style, and gave her a somewhat masculine appearance, though she is of slender figure.

Mr. Rigby, for the prosecution, said the prisoner was charged with obtaining large sums of money by various frauds, and with falsifying receipts hereafter to be produced. The prisoner was a French woman, and had been in the hands of the police for some time. She had been brought from Liverpool the previous day, and was attired in a Newmarket style, and gave her a somewhat masculine appearance, though she is of slender figure.

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say too much. Mrs. Ward believed the prisoner's story, and advanced money from time to time on the faith of the

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Great-Britain

LONDON, FEBRUARY 9-10, 1882.

MR. GLADSTONE AND THE CLOTURE.

Sir Stafford Northcote gave notice on Thursday evening that when the Prime Minister brings forward his Resolutions regulating the Procedure of the House he shall oppose the First, embodying the *Closure*. Mr. Marriott, one of the Liberal members for Brighton, has also given notice of an Amendment to the effect that no Rule of Procedure can be considered satisfactory which confers the power of closing the debate on a bare majority of members. In fact, the more Mr. Gladstone's first "new Rule" is considered, the more the certainty grows that the House of Commons will refuse its assent to it. The whole drift of public opinion is clearly and resolutely against it: it is faintly defended by a few timid Ministerialist journals, and vigorously denounced everywhere else. Nor is there anything in the state of public affairs to warrant so extensive a suppression of the rights and liberties of Parliament as Mr. Gladstone now proposes; for although the difficulties which impede legislation are in themselves a great evil, the endowment of the Ministry with an absolute and despotic authority would be a far greater one, and only to be borne under the pressure of some tremendous national crisis such as was held by the ancient Romans to justify a Dictatorship. To pretend that such an innovation is necessary to ensure a speedier passage of Bankruptcy Bills, or County Board Bills, or Rivers Conservancy Bills, is an outrage on the public common sense. It is not a question of less than to confer on the Government of the day the power of terminating Debates exactly when it chooses, by the fiat of a bare majority. The sham conditions by which the proposal is accompanied only make matters worse, because they show that the authors of it are aware of its arbitrary character. When less than forty members oppose the application of the *Closure*, this opposition may be overruled by any majority whatsoever. If thirty-eight are against it, thirty-nine can silence them. It is only when the majority exceeds forty that the shadow of moderation is introduced by the provision that the majority in that case must number more than two hundred members. Thus, if the minority be forty, the majority must be two hundred and one; but then if the minority be two hundred, the majority need be no larger, for two hundred and one would still be enough. In the same way, two hundred and fifty could silence two hundred and forty-nine; three hundred could silence two hundred and ninety-nine, and that, too, without debate or protest. The limitation imposed is a mere form, which so far as it masks the real nature of the Rule, only makes it more dangerous. As the Minister will always have the required number at his disposal—for one who has not must very soon cease to be Minister—it is clear that if the Rule is passed, the freedom of speech so long enjoyed by members of the House of Commons will be placed entirely at the mercy of one man; and what is really the final cause of Parliamentary Government will cease to exist. Now, we must remind the country that this particular policy, which it is the boast of Englishmen to have maintained, has not been maintained for the sake of liberty, but for the sake of the House of Commons. It cannot be entertained for a moment. If it were to be adopted there would be very little necessity for the other eleven rules which Mr. Gladstone has added to it. Absolute master of the debates, the leader of the House would arrange business as he pleased, and he would generally be able to bend private members to his will by threatening to stop discussion unless they submitted to his will.—*Standard*.

THE QUEEN'S VISIT TO MENTONE.

The statement has been made, apparently with a political motive, that the Queen's projected visit to Mentone is suggested by failing health, occasioned by political anxiety, and especially by distress as to the state of Ireland. Our readers will hear with satisfaction that there is no foundation for this representation with regard either to the mental or physical condition of the Queen. No one can wonder that the Queen should desire to exchange a few of the bleak and gloomy weeks of an English spring for the bright sunshine and clear air of the Riviera. A residence at Mentone, such as the Court Circular announces that her Majesty intends to make, from March till immediately after Easter, that is till the second week of April, will cut out, as it were, the very core of our season of easterly winds and March dust, and diminish the discomforts of a British winter in a sensible degree. The Queen mentions her intention of preserving a strict incognito during her stay abroad, and no doubt the deliberate sincerity of this resolve will be recognised by all foreign authorities and carefully carried out. Were it otherwise the little tour could scarcely be looked upon as a refreshing or reposeful holiday. The wish to escape from notice, which though always loyal and respectful may be often very troublesome and tiring, is probably one of the Queen's motives for taking a holiday abroad. There are others taking

scientifically conceivable, however, even to persons who possess Highland castles and villas by the shores of southern England. The complete change of climate supplies a tonic not to be obtained by Britons within the bounds of their own four seas. The change may not be from cold to warmth. On the contrary, it is probable England has during the present remarkable winter enjoyed an average higher temperature than many wintering places in the South of Europe. But the brightness of the sunshine, the clearness of the air, they enjoy are something quite unfamiliar in our beloved island. They are enough in themselves to animate the spirits and excite the mind. They make physical exercise a joy, more existence a pleasure. There is something to be said with truth against every individual town or village on the south line of the French coast. Cannes and Mentone are dull, and have only lately freed themselves from sanitary suspicion. Nice is not dull, but neither is it safe for invalids, from a climatic point of view, owing to its exposure to cold winds. Monaco is wicked. But whatever their defects as points of residence may be, the enchanting roads which wander from one to the other cause them all to be forgotten. If Monaco be wicked, it is with the wickedness of paradise. Nature has done such wonders there, man has not been able to deface them. On the surface, indeed, he has co-operated with her as far as in him lay to produce a perfect result. More lovely gardens are not to be found than those from which the visitor may survey some of the loveliest sea views in Europe. He needs not gamble, though it has been hinted that those guests at the big hotel are most welcome who most eagerly risk their money on the tables. He is provided with admirable reading-rooms and delightful concerts. Under it all squirms the serpent, but a residence of a week or two will not hurt the tenderest conscience. A delightful excursion, not very well-known or very often made, is out to the end of the promontory of Antibes. The view thence is exactly the reverse of that from San Carlo. The coast line right and left divides the blue sea from the lovely green shores in curving lines, the vine and olive-clad hills slope gently towards crowded with the snow-capped Alps, looking as if they stood there to guard their Italy, which they have not known how to guard. That view is one which remains indelible in the memory. The man who should travel blindfold there and back again from the heart of a London fog, allowed to gaze and fix it on his heart for the space of half an hour, would not have paid too dearly for his gain. No, it may not be gained, England is a very good place to go away from in the winter and early spring. It is for English people at any rate, and for some Americans; the best place in the world to live in, but not just at this time of year. What it might be if we consumed our own smoke in another sense from personal consumption of it down our throats is another thing. We in the big towns might then see the sun at other times than in the height of summer, we might know the sky was blue on more exact authority than the assertion of the poets, we might have the nightingales back in London, we might escape the rasping sore throat now threatening to be national and chronic. But even then we should miss much that the sojourner at Mentone will find, and find this year, we trust, in even unusual abundance. The soft refreshing air, the brilliant sunbeams, the vegetation almost tropical in character and luxuriance, the sea bluer, sweeter, calmer than that even which washes our fair Devonshire or Cornwall coasts—all these have a power to soothe and charm peculiar to themselves. Joined to complete abandonment of work, release from responsibility, and cessation from tedious ceremonial, they give the Queen the perfect cordial hope, and the Queen the perfect calm and enjoyment they offer to the open eyes and disengaged mind.—*Daily News*.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—THURSDAY.

The LORD CHANCELLOR took his seat on the Woolsack shortly before five o'clock. THE LAND COMMISSIONER AND THE ATTORNEY GENERAL moved for a copy of the letter addressed to him by the Secretary of the Irish Land Commission, in explanation of the circumstances in which the pamphlet entitled "How to become the owner of your farm," was printed at the Queen's printing office, Dublin. In doing so he took occasion to condemn some of the notices issued by the Land Commission. Lord MONCK, from a long knowledge of the Secretary of the Irish Land Commission, bore testimony that gentleman's general efficiency in the public service. Lord CARLISLE said there would be no objection to the production of the letter; but a correspondence for which he intended to move would put the House in much fuller possession of all the circumstances relating to the publication of "How to become the owner of your farm." The motion was agreed to.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—THURSDAY.

The Speaker took the chair at four o'clock. The RULES OF PROCEDURE. Sir S. NORTHCOTE gave notice that when the Prime Minister's Procedure Resolutions were brought forward, he would oppose the first, which related to the *Closure*. On the same subject, Mr. SEXTON gave notice that before the debate began he would move a "call of the House." Mr. A. BALFOUR gave notice that he will move to defer the *Closure* resolution till the others are discussed. Mr. MARRIOTT, from the Liberal benches, gave notice that he will move a counter resolution declaring that no rule will be satisfactory which closes debate by a bare majority.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—THURSDAY.

In answer to Mr. Broadbent, Mr. GLADSTONE stated that her Majesty has been pleased to confer the rank of Privy Counsellor on Sir H. Robinson, and also to create Sir E. Wood a G.C.M.G. and Sir H. de Villiers a K.C.M.G. In addition to his honours, the dignity of a Knight of the Order of the Bath, a President Brand, subject to the consent of the Volksraad.

THE OUTRAGES ON THE JEWS IN RUSSIA.

In answer to a question from Mr. Serjeant Simon, Mr. GLADSTONE said the Government did not think it prudent to make any representation to the Russian Government in regard to the outrages inflicted on the Jews; and in answer to Sir J. Hay, who suggested the constitutional alternative of dissolution or resignation, he said the Government desired any steps in regard to the division of Tuesday.

THE ADDRESS.

The adjourned debate on Mr. P. J. Smyth's Home Rule amendment to the Address was resumed by Mr. DAWSON, who, speaking as the Lord Mayor of Dublin, pointed out some of the inconveniences of the present system, and was continued by Mr. T. D. SULLIVAN, who declared that Ireland would never be united to England until the Irish people had their own laws. Mr. MOLLOY went into details of the system which the Home Rule party desired to substitute for the present connexion between the two countries, and described the manner in which local affairs would be conducted under the proposed Imperial matters to the Parliament in London, without impairing the integrity of the Empire. Mr. O'SULLIVAN maintained that there would be no rest in Ireland until it was converted from a province into a nation.

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND.—THURSDAY.

Mr. GLADSTONE, after expressing his regret at this refusal, said, with regard to local self-government in Ireland, the Government, he had had reluctantly compelled to postpone the measure they had contemplated on the subject, were thoroughly alive to its importance. As to the wider question of a separate Legislature, he remarked that the Government had been very much surprised to find the supporters of the movement as to what its real object was, and he advised them that their very first step must be to make up their minds as to how and by what authority the functions of the two Legislatures would be defined, and local distinguished by Imperial matters.

MR. HENRY THOUGHT THAT THE DIFFICULTIES

would not turn out to be so great as they seemed to be if Mr. Gladstone would give his mind to them; Mr. O'Donnell remarked that, however formidable the objections to Home Rule might be, they were not so great as the objections to the present system. Home Rule did not involve separation, for the Irish meant, not only to have local self-government for themselves, but to get their share in the government of the English and Scotch.

MR. EWART PROTESTED THAT THE LOYAL MEN

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IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—THURSDAY.

The LORD CHANCELLOR took his seat on the Woolsack shortly before five o'clock.

THE LAND COMMISSIONER AND THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

moved for a copy of the letter addressed to him by the Secretary of the Irish Land Commission, in explanation of the circumstances in which the pamphlet entitled "How to become the owner of your farm," was printed at the Queen's printing office, Dublin. In doing so he took occasion to condemn some of the notices issued by the Land Commission.

Lord MONCK, from a long knowledge of the Secretary of the Irish Land Commission, bore testimony that gentleman's general efficiency in the public service.

Lord CARLISLE said there would be no objection to the production of the letter; but a correspondence for which he intended to move would put the House in much fuller possession of all the circumstances relating to the publication of "How to become the owner of your farm." The motion was agreed to.

THE JEWS IN RUSSIA.

The DUKE OF SUSSEX asked whether the Secretary of State could communicate to the House any recent information relating to the treatment of the Jews in Russia.

Lord GRANVILLE thought it hardly necessary to claim for the Government of which he was a member that they sympathised with the victims of oppression wherever the latter might be found, and it was needless to say that their sympathy would not be less in a case in which the victims were of the Jewish race; but as to diplomatic interference by any power, we were prepared to meet by the fact that we did not permit such interference by any other Power in reference to British subjects. However, putting aside the question of right, he did not think that anything could be more inexpedient than official interference. As the Secretary of State had confidential representations, he was sure that no one in the place of Foreign Minister would omit any suitable opportunity of making them; but public comments on those representations would, he considered, be unwise. Our consul had communicated the facts which had come to his knowledge, and he now begged to lay on the table a copy of correspondence connected with those outrages.

Lord GRANVILLE concurred with the Secretary for Foreign Affairs in thinking that official representations as to these outrages would be of very doubtful utility.

Lord SHAFTESBURY was of the same opinion; but thought the words said on the subject, that nothing would do good in the case of the oppressed Jews.

Their Lordships adjourned at 10 minutes to 6 o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—THURSDAY.

The Speaker took the chair at four o'clock.

THE RULES OF PROCEDURE.

Sir S. NORTHCOTE gave notice that when the Prime Minister's Procedure Resolutions were brought forward, he would oppose the first, which related to the *Closure*. On the same subject, Mr. SEXTON gave notice that before the debate began he would move a "call of the House." Mr. A. BALFOUR gave notice that he will move to defer the *Closure* resolution till the others are discussed. Mr. MARRIOTT, from the Liberal benches, gave notice that he will move a counter resolution declaring that no rule will be satisfactory which closes debate by a bare majority.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—THURSDAY.

In answer to Mr. Broadbent, Mr. GLADSTONE stated that her Majesty has been pleased to confer the rank of Privy Counsellor on Sir H. Robinson, and also to create Sir E. Wood a G.C.M.G. and Sir H. de Villiers a K.C.M.G. In addition to his honours, the dignity of a Knight of the Order of the Bath, a President Brand, subject to the consent of the Volksraad.

THE OUTRAGES ON THE JEWS IN RUSSIA.

In answer to a question from Mr. Serjeant Simon, Mr. GLADSTONE said the Government did not think it prudent to make any representation to the Russian Government in regard to the outrages inflicted on the Jews; and in answer to Sir J. Hay, who suggested the constitutional alternative of dissolution or resignation, he said the Government desired any steps in regard to the division of Tuesday.

THE ADDRESS.

The adjourned debate on Mr. P. J. Smyth's Home Rule amendment to the Address was resumed by Mr. DAWSON, who, speaking as the Lord Mayor of Dublin, pointed out some of the inconveniences of the present system, and was continued by Mr. T. D. SULLIVAN, who declared that Ireland would never be united to England until the Irish people had their own laws. Mr. MOLLOY went into details of the system which the Home Rule party desired to substitute for the present connexion between the two countries, and described the manner in which local affairs would be conducted under the proposed Imperial matters to the Parliament in London, without impairing the integrity of the Empire. Mr. O'SULLIVAN maintained that there would be no rest in Ireland until it was converted from a province into a nation.

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND.—THURSDAY.

Mr. GLADSTONE, after expressing his regret at this refusal, said, with regard to local self-government in Ireland, the Government, he had had reluctantly compelled to postpone the measure they had contemplated on the subject, were thoroughly alive to its importance. As to the wider question of a separate Legislature, he remarked that the Government had been very much surprised to find the supporters of the movement as to what its real object was, and he advised them that their very first step must be to make up their minds as to how and by what authority the functions of the two Legislatures would be defined, and local distinguished by Imperial matters.

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would not turn out to be so great as they seemed to be if Mr. Gladstone would give his mind to them; Mr. O'Donnell remarked that, however formidable the objections to Home Rule might be, they were not so great as the objections to the present system. Home Rule did not involve separation, for the Irish meant, not only to have local self-government for themselves, but to get their share in the government of the English and Scotch.

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from his speeches since the prorogation to show that he had never advocated the non-payment of rent, nor the rejection of the Land Act. On the contrary, he had re-

commended that it should be tested; he had used the influence of his own name in order; and in reference to the "prairie value," for which he had been so much censured, Mr. McCarthy showed that it was borrowed from a speech of Mr. Bright. Considering how the Irish people had been deceived by the Liberal party, it was no wonder that there should be discontent approaching even to disaffection in Ireland, but by suppressing the Land League and arresting its principal members the Government had deprived themselves of the most potent means of preserving order, and were responsible for all that had occurred since.

Mr. W. E. FORSTER commenced his defence of his administration by confessing that he had been compelled to put his exceptional powers into execution more largely than he had expected, but he had no alternative unless he had been prepared to allow the country to drift into a condition of excitement which might have led to civil war. He also read extracts from Mr. Parnell's speeches, which he contended proved that his designs were not so harmless as Mr. McCarthy had represented. It was not, however, for the advice which he had given that Mr. Parnell was arrested, but for the means taken to enforce it, the intimidation, boycotting, outrages, and murders by which the Land League coerced the people to conform to their orders. Of these practices Mr. Forster related some striking instances, contending that as they could not be punished by the ordinary law, the Government were driven to these arrests, unless they were prepared to allow the Land League to become the real government of Ireland. He admitted that he had been some time in realizing what Mr. Parnell's intentions were, but he contended that he had in his conscience that gentleman was guilty of inciting to intimidation he advised the arrests. As to the "reasonable practices," though he believed that an organized attempt to substitute private Courts for the Queen's Courts was a reasonable practice, the arrests on that head were made because of speeches which, if permitted to go on, would have brought about a state of feeling certain to end in civil war. In the same manner he defended his suppression of the *Irish Times*, which he contended was an intimidating organization, and that its members were guilty of intimidation. Of these reasonable practices, and of the acts of violence by which the "No rent" manifesto was enforced, Mr. Forster related numerous specific instances, and passing to the present situation he expressed a confident belief that things were getting better. Landlords were collecting their rents; farmers were finding out that they had been misled by Land League agents; and justice was doing its duty. At the same time, the signs of improvement were not sufficient to justify any relaxation of vigilance or to permit the release of the prisoners. At the close of his speech Mr. Forster made some remarks in relation to the Land Act, which, he said, was beginning to have an effect; and in justifying the character and general conduct of the Sub-Commissioners, he expressed a very decided opinion that the rents in Ireland would not be so large as those in the case anticipated when the Act was under discussion.

The debate was adjourned on the motion of Mr. Redmond.

The Attorney-General brought in the Corporation Elections Bill, and read a first time.

Other Bills were brought in and read a first time.

The House was counted out at 10 minutes to 3 o'clock.

COURT AND FASHIONABLE NEWS.

OSBORNE, THURSDAY.

The Queen and Princess Beatrice drove out yesterday afternoon, attended by the Dowager and Duchess of Roxburghe, and her Majesty walked and drove this morning with the Princess. The Earl of Kenmare, K.P., Lord Chamberlain, arrived at Osborne yesterday, and had an audience of the Queen, and an Address from the House of Lords in reply to the Speech from the Throne.

Mrs. Drummond of Megginch arrived at Osborne yesterday, and had the honour of dining with her Majesty. The Hon. Frances Drummond has succeeded the Hon. Ethel Cadogan as Maid of Honour in Waiting.

According to present arrangements, the Queen, accompanied by the Princess Beatrice, will embark at Portsmouth about March 15, in the steam yacht *Victoria* and *Albert*, and, escorted by the *Alberta* tender, *Enchantress*, *Admiralty* yacht, and the *Galathea*, *Trinity* and *Porpoise*, proceed to Cherbourg, whence the journey will be completed by special train. The return journey will be made in the middle of April, to enable her Majesty to be in England on the marriage of Prince Leopold, Duke of Albany, and Princess Victoria of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha.

The Prince and Princess of Wales, attended by Lady Emily Kingscote and the Hon. H. Tyrwhitt Wilson, went to Windsor on Thursday morning to visit the Duke and Duchess of Connaught at Windsor Castle. The Prince and Princess remained to luncheon, and returned to London in the afternoon.

A Windsor correspondent says: The Duchess of Connaught has benefited by the change from Bagshot to Windsor Castle. Although still weak, her health has much improved, and she is able to take a more active part in the household duties.

The *Lancet* says: "We understand that the Duchess of Connaught's sudden removal on Sunday from Bagshot to Windsor was in consequence of the unsatisfactory state of the arrangements at Bagshot Park, where some weeks very offensive smells have been observed about the house, and several of the inmates have suffered from obscure forms of indisposition. Her Royal Highness had made an attempt to leave the house on Saturday, but a few days after her confinement, when she developed symptoms which were thought to depend on poisoning by sewer gas. On investigation it was found that a large supply of gas had been admitted by a careless workman, and that the gas had been drawn directly into the main drain, was left immediately under the flooring close to the central hall, and thus a continuous stream of gas was poured into the house. Mr. Playfair advised that her Royal Highness should be removed to Windsor, and that she should get her air of the infected atmosphere. On Sunday Sir William Jenner met him in consultation by her Majesty's command, and, completely concurring in the view, the removal was at once effected. Her Royal Highness's condition is already apparent, and her symptoms no longer cause serious anxiety."

The Marquis and Marchioness of Bath and Lady Anne Somerset arrived at Bagshot on Thursday, from Longleat, Warminster.

The Earl and Countess of Erne arrived at their residence in Eaton-square on Thursday, from Crom Castle, Newton Butler, Ireland.

The Earl and Countess of Darley have left their residence in Hill-street, Berkeley-square, for Cobham Hall, Kent.

Earl and Countess Granville had a dinner party at their residence on Carlton-house-terrace on Wednesday night. Afterwards Lady Granville had a small and early reception.

Earl Bathurst has left town for Cirencester House, Cirencester.

The *Morning Post* says that the Earl of Wilton, according to a private letter, was on Thursday afternoon from Melton Mowbray, was, since his release on Tuesday last, not worse, but his lordship is very weak from the confinement to his bed. Lord Wilton has been suffering more or less from the

gout since the 15th of last month. No bulletin or official statement has been issued at his lordship's house in Grosvenor-square. Inquiries from the members of the Royal Family and many personal friends have been made, but no further information was obtained. Six years ago Lord Wilton, then in London, was for several weeks in a extreme condition, and then suffered from extreme debility, but he pulled through, and his friends hope that he may do so now. It was stated at an inquiry at Egerton Lodge, Melton Mowbray, at a late hour on Thursday night that the Earl of Wilton was still in a very critical condition, though he had regained strength to some extent. Altogether there was a decided improvement.

Lord and Lady Tenterden entertained at dinner on Wednesday last at their residence in Portland-place, his Excellency the German Ambassador, his Excellency the Austrian Ambassador and Countess Karolyi, Count Herbert Bismarck, Earl and Countess of Derby and Lady Margaret Cecil, Earl of Redesdale, the Prime Minister, Mrs. and Miss Gladstone, Lord and Lady Sudley, the Right Hon. G. J. Goschen, M.P., and Mrs. Leeson, Sir Arthur Hayter, M.P., and Lady Taylor, Hon. Miss Abbott, Mrs. Maxwell, and Mr. Sanderson. Lady Tenterden afterwards had a reception, which was attended by the Ambassadors and leading members of the Corps Diplomatique, and by a numerous and fashionable assembly.

The Bishop of Peterborough is indisposed, and has been compelled to leave Leicester, where a Church mission is being held.

The marriage of Hon. Arthur Henniker, Coldstream Guards, and Hon. Florence Milnes will take place shortly after Easter.

The death of an announced, the Hon. Douglas Edward Holroyd, brother of the Earl of Sheffield. The deceased gentleman has been staying at Brighton for the last few months, and succumbed yesterday to an attack of paralysis from which he had been suffering. He was 48 years of age.

THE REPORTED MURDER OF MR. STILLMAN.

No further information has been received respecting the report that the *Times* correspondent, Mr. Stillman, had been murdered between Javaka and Ipek. The *Times* says: At the Foreign Office a similar report has been received from Cetinje of the murder and decapitation of an Englishman named Stillman by Albanians in this district. There is ground for hope, however, that, so far as our correspondent is concerned, the report is inaccurate. On Thursday, we received letters from Mr. Stillman, dated Athens, January 31, in which he expressed no intention of leaving the capital; and if even he set out on the next day it is barely possible that he can have reached the district indicated in the telegram, some seventy miles from Scutari, within the period at which the alleged murder must have occurred. A still stronger assurance of Mr. Stillman's safety is afforded by the fact that in our issue of Wednesday there appeared a telegram, which we received from Athens on the previous day, bearing Mr. Stillman's name. It is possible that our correspondent may have authorized some person to act for him and to use his name in the facts we have stated just now; but the report of our correspondent's death has no foundation. Unfortunately, to telegrams sent to Athens on Thursday night no answer has yet been received.

THE CHANNEL TUNNEL SCHEME.

A message from Dover on Friday morning says: "The first half-mile of the Shakespeare heading of the Channel Tunnel experimental borings has just been completed. The work continues satisfactorily, and a steady uniform rate of progress is being maintained. The borings are now proceeding under the sea in the direction of the Admiralty Pier at Dover. The work at No. 3 shaft has been suspended for the erection of more powerful pumps, the miners having struck upon a spring."

The bills relating to the Channel Tunnel will, the *Standard* says, be referred to a Special Committee, partly nominated by the House and partly by the Committee of Selection. It is expected that the Committee will take evidence on the military part of the question.

In presence of all that has been written within the last few weeks in connection with the proposed Channel Tunnel, concerning the danger of an invasion of England, states Vienna telegram in the *Daily Telegraph*, the following *bon mot* of Count von Moltke may be appropriately quoted:—"I have five different plans for invading England, but I have not yet been able to discover one for getting out of it."

It is to be regretted, says *Iron*, in a matter of such importance, the successful development of one of the boldest of engineering schemes which has ever been attempted, that there should be conflicting interests at work. When an operation of such magnitude, involving the outlay of such an immense sum of money is in question, there is every necessity for union and concerted action rather than rivalry and division. And yet it is a fact that two projects are already in the field for utilising the tunnel which, there is reason to hope, will be by and by completed between France and England. The Channel Tunnel Company, as our readers are aware, propose to bring in a bill during the present session of Parliament for the construction of an approach to the tunnel at this end, which would be the first instalment of a line intended to run through the whole length ultimately. Sir Edward Watkin, who was at one period associated with the company, has been attracted to Scotland from time to time, chiefly because he disagreed with his colleagues as to the suitability of Dover for a starting point. His name now appears in connection with the Submarine Continental Railway Company, which is apparently affiliated with the Eastern Railway Company. If the cause assigned for Sir Edward's separation from the Channel Company be correct, it might be expected that he had a counter-scheme to propose; but this does not seem to be the case. He is now driven to the conclusion that the railway company of which he is chairman seeks to obtain a preponderant influence over the future route to France.

PERSONATING NOBILITY.—AT THE BIRMINGHAM

police-court on Thursday, Mary Jane Fearnoux, who gave her age as 42, but looked considerably younger, was charged with obtaining by fraud various sums of money, amounting in the aggregate to between £2,000 and £7,000. The prisoner, who had been brought from Liverpool the previous day, was attired in a Newmarket coat, which gave her a somewhat masculine appearance, though she is of slender figure.

Mr. Rigby, for the prosecution, said the prisoner was charged with obtaining large sums of money by various frauds, and with falsely representing herself at one time to be Lord Arthur Clinton, and, at another, the Earl of Lanesborough. The frauds extended over a period of some seven or eight years. They had been very ingeniously accomplished—so much so, indeed, that the prosecutor, Mr. Beynon, could scarcely be persuaded they were frauds. In conjunction with a man named Gething, who had been brought up on the previous day, she had obtained some £2,000 from Mr. Beynon, and large sums from Mr. Screen and several other people. The prisoner was remanded for a week. The male prisoner now asserts that he is the dupe of Fearnoux, and that she had deceived him and nearly all his relations. He began, he says, by being bound for her for several loans, all of which he had to pay. He has in his possession what purports to be a security from Lord Coleridge for £1,000. Three years since he wrote to Lord Coleridge, reminding him of

the bond, and asking for help. In reply, he was told that his lordship would put the matter in the hands of the police if he wrote again. This letter, he says, did not shake his confidence. He took it to Mr. Beynon, who replied, "Don't write to Lord Coleridge again, or we shall have a penny." About that time Mr. Beynon received a fictitious letter, purporting to come from Lord Coleridge, which so satisfied him that he was dealing with Lord Clinton that until this week he has never had any doubt in the matter. Gething added that last week, being and having lost all his money by lending it to "Lord A. P. Clinton," he wrote again to Lord Coleridge, reminding him of the previous letter and the bond he held of him for £1,000. Lord Coleridge, in reply, said he had "placed the letter in the hands of the Birmingham police," and the result was Gething's arrest. About seven years ago, it seems, Fearnoux lodged at the house of a Mrs. Ward, of Aston, and stated, "as a secret," that she was Lord Arthur Pelham Clinton, who had only fainted to die, and for whose arrest a warrant was out. She described how the coffin of Lord Clinton was filled with stones and buried, while the lawyers and doctors were bribed not to say too much. Mrs. Ward believed the prisoner's story, and advanced money from time to time on the faith of the representations. She also introduced "his lordship" to several of her relations, who were desirous

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Looking at the question in a broad way, argues the *Statist*, such as becomes all who prefer the efficiency of Parliament to the interest of party, we see no reason why the *clature* should not be adopted. It is admitted upon all hands that Parliament has been falling in the estimation of the public; that the conduct of its business is not good, and that the country is weary of it, because it has no time to turn to measures which are useful, but not partisan; such, for example, as the Criminal Code Bill and the Bankruptcy Bill. We do not think that at such times the *clature* may work injuriously in the hands of a rash or a reactionary Minister. It may be used to hurry through Parliament Bills which would be condemned were the country given a chance to consider them. For example, in the case of a disagreement with a foreign State, the *clature* that some step might be

That a woman should be able to pass herself off as a man for a series of years, and should in her assumed character play havoc with the affections of some of her own sex, is neither wonderful nor uncommon. Nor is there anything extraordinary in the more or less common belief that several well-known persons who happen to have died at a convenient time for themselves or their friends are not really dead but in concealment. Hence that Furness should have succeeded in persuading her dupes that she was Lord Arthurs Clinton at the commencement of her fictitious

tial abolition of "the silver streak" should be, and indeed must, have great weight when the subject of the Channel Tunnel is seriously considered by the Government and the legislators. But, remembering how furiously railways were, in the beginning, denounced by the *Quarterly Review*, and how the *Suez Canal* was vehemently opposed by the *London Journal*, I am inclined to ask about our highway to India, I think that about the wisest course for the philosophically-minded observer to take is to bear in mind the Five Aphorisms of Hippocrates:— (1) Life is short; (2) Art is long; (3) The occasion fleeth; (4) Judgment is difficult; (5) *Præsumamur fatiosus*. These aphorisms have not by any means been repeated ad nauseam. The Channel Tunnel may not be made in our time, nor in our children's time; but this world has a confirmed habit of refusing to be content with the status quo, and it may be done in it before the prophecy of Nostradamus be accomplished, or before this or that of the *Prætor's* comet. I came last November from Venice to Paris by way of Turin, Moscow, and London, and when I reached home I had the pleasure of reading in *Temple Bar* a very beautiful and

Lord Norton is laid up at his house in Eaton-place by a violent chill, caught in coming to the meeting of Parliament, and is quite incapable of attending to business for the present.

The Bishop of Peterborough has recovered to a very considerable extent from the indis-

person known as Lord Arthur Clinton, who represented himself as a nobleman's daughter, Lady Butler, under the name of Frederica Elliot de Furness. To support her pretensions she forged letters in the name of the Queen, the Prince of Wales, Lord Coleridge, Mr. Justice Denman, and Mr. Justice Wigram, by which she obtained large sums of money from clergy-men, tradesmen, and people of means. Not only has one young lady whom Fearnoux courted been driven mad on discovering the deception, but the wife of one of the victims, who advanced £3,000, has also been sent to a lunatic asylum for her insanity at the belief that the prisoner was Lord Clinton, and with all his money and borrowed £1,100 in addition. The most remarkable case brought to light is that of a man named Fowell, a mechanical engineer, who has been imprisoned and utterly ruined by Fearnoux's ruses. He was employed by Fearnoux while working at his own business in Birmingham in 1874, and lent her money. About the same time his uncle died, and left him an estate in Cheshire known as Harlow, on which there was a colliery. After representing himself as an heirless man and producing the forged letters from Lord Coleridge, the Queen, the Prince of Wales, and others, Fearnoux obtained from him between £500 and £600, and he supported her, and his wife waited upon her as a servant. In 1875 she offered to buy his property, and was accordingly asked to consult Sir John Holker, and to sell out stock to raise the money. She got from Fowell various documents relating to the property, and finally induced him to allow it to be so done by public auction. Though said to be worth about £100,000, the estate was sold for £20,000, and when Fowell came to London to receive the money he was presented with a bill which showed him to be £37 in debt. He was so irritated that he assaulted the man who presented the account, and was bound over to keep the peace. Miss Fearnoux then disappeared, and he did not see her again until she is a journeyman. Four years later he traced Fearnoux to Liverpool, and after vain effort to recover his money he wrote her a strong worded letter, and was thereupon arrested on the charge of using threats, and committing perjury. At the trial a second letter of very odd character was produced, showing knowledge of which Fowell denied. He was convicted and sentenced to twelve months imprisonment, and was only liberated from gaol on the 2d inst. Including the time he was awaiting trial he was in prison fifteen weeks. It is stated that the Liverpool police were in possession of the particulars supplied from Birmingham

REFRIG TO LOCAL TAXATION.—*The Government have* Liverpool *Mercantile* states that it is in a position to give particulars respecting the Government scheme for the relief of local taxation. It says:—"The exact nature of the Imperial relief to local authorities has been decided by the Committee of Privileges of that portion of Imperial Parliament present derived from what are ordinarily known as 'the establishment licences.' The include the duties at present paid on carriages, dogs, servants, armorial bearings, &c., which will be abolished, and replaced by duties derived from gun and game licences. The original idea of the Treasury extended only to dog licences. Owing to the trouble of collecting this revenue, especially in Ireland, it has for a long time been contemplated that some other source of possibility of the dog licences on the local authorities. The idea enlarged itself by degrees, and the length the proposal to throw over the four licences mentioned in the same way found acceptance. That portion of the public at present liable for the duty was not greatly concerned in the new proposal. It means a change of collectors. Possibly it may entail some change in the incidents of charge. To put the matter in a nutshell, it is a change in a brougham, who does not pride himself in the possession of armorial bearings, whose tastes or means do not extend to powdered lackeys on the one hand or to canine companions on the other, the measure will hardly excite much more than a passing remark. Speaking in round numbers, and taking the whole of Great Britain, it will bring relief to the extent to £1,300,000 annually." It is possible, the Liverpool paper thinks, that the changes proposed may be more fully developed policy-by-and-by to be more fully developed policy.—Broadly speaking the revenue of this kingdom may safely rely on the main items of excise, customs, stamps, taxes, a postage, with such additional resources from other sources. This would leave the Government free to hand over the surplus licensing revenue of the country in support of local government and expenditure. Following the above ideas to their logical conclusion, it came to follow Mr. John Bright's famous adumbrate speech when he spoke of buying the licensed interest in surplus public-house by means of the revenue these licenses yield; and if ever such a contingency has to fall upon us, it is likely that this will be the basis of solution."

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Great Britain.

LONDON, FEBRUARY 12-13, 1882.

WEAK POINTS OF THE CLOTURE.

It has been the uniform custom of English Ministers, when the procedure of the House of Commons has been in question, to take the leaders of the Opposition into council and to obtain for any new rules the sanction of both parties. Mr. Bright upbraided Lord Beaconsfield's Government in 1878 for entering the European Conference with shotted guns. It is with a parade of force that the Ministry are about to lay before Parliament the most remarkable innovations in procedure that have ever been proposed. When the project of the *cloture* began to assume a practical form in Ministerial speeches during the autumn, more than one Minister intimated that it would be made a question of confidence. Mr. Gladstone, however, did not commit himself to any such position, nor was it conceivable that a statesman of his long experience and his Parliamentary training would be ready to withdraw from the free judgment of the House of Commons proposals deeply affecting the character and the future of the representative system. This, however, must be so, if the Prime Minister's scheme of *cloture* is to be forced upon the House of Commons by the menace of a dissolution. The doubts and anxieties which are gathering will not be extinguished, though they may be overborne. It is, indeed, manifest that the changes portended by the proposed plan for closing debates must be far wider in their operation than is admitted by their apologists. It is assumed that should the resolution pass, we shall have to deal simply with the existing state of things modified by the *cloture*, under the control of the present Speaker and the present leader of the House. But this is a period of transition which must soon come to an end. It may be confidently anticipated that Sir Henry Brand will use whatever powers may be intrusted to him with scrupulous impartiality and in harmony with the traditions of his office. But he has held the Speakership for over ten years, and his powers have been severely taxed by the fatigue of the present stormy Parliament. It is probable that not later than the beginning of next Session the House of Commons will have to elect a new Speaker. Nor is this all. Mr. Gladstone will complete during the current Session the fiftieth year of his Parliamentary service, and his retirement from the active conduct of affairs in the Lower House cannot be long delayed. We are close upon a time when Parliament, if subjected to the new rule and governed in its spirit, will find no anchorage in the experience and the traditions of the leader of the House or the Speaker. To what, then, are we to look forward? The moral effect of the proposed scheme of *cloture*—especially if it be carried, as it can only be carried, by coercing the House with the threat of a penal dissolution—will make itself felt in the first instance in the election of the new Speaker. It is impossible that the spirit of domination, encountered and sharpened by the spirit of resistance, should not give a strong party bias to the choice of the majority. A Speaker so chosen is too likely to be in accord with the temper of those who elect him, and to act in the Chair as a *Président de Combat*. He will understand that he is chosen to give effect to the rule of *cloture* in the letter and in the spirit. The disappearance of Mr. Gladstone from the Treasury Bench will leave the Liberal party unguided by any predominant authority, and it is plain enough that power will tend to be concentrated in the "machina." Mr. Auberon Herbert drew an amusing picture some time ago of the manner in which the political "holograph" manufactures, reproduces, and multiplies "public opinion." The demand for the *cloture* would be reverberated, whenever it suited the Government of the day, from a hundred organs, inspired by local causes, and set going by wire from Westminster or Birmingham. Such a system would inspire no confidence and would be met with the most obstinate resistance. The bitterest party passions would be let loose. Moderate men would be forced to give up the conduct of the Opposition and every Parliamentary struggle would become an internecine battle without quarter and without truce. Even in the present Session, while so many moderating influences are still present, it is difficult to see how, for the most limited and temporary purposes, the new rule could be effectively put in force. If it were to be agreed upon in accordance with Parliamentary comity between the leaders of both parties the Opposition would not be able to refuse to act up to its spirit and to join in closing debate when the question at issue had been excessively discussed and the continuation of the debate was becoming a public injury. But, coerced and outvoted, the Conservatives will feel in every case that they are acting under duress and menace and that they are under no obligation to the triumphant and overbearing majority.

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THE INSURRECTION IN ARABIA.

The present insurrection in the Arabian province of Yemen threatens to assume serious proportions, and to prove the cause of some trouble and embarrassment to the Turkish Government. A few days ago it was hoped that the worst was known, and that the rising would be promptly suppressed; but the latest news is to the effect that the disaffection has spread beyond the limits of the Vilayet of Yemen, and broken out among the tribes of the Hejaz, between Mecca and Medina. The latter city is garrisoned by only a small force, which is said to be virtually blockaded. Nothing can be done towards the restoration of order, it is admitted, until the arrival of large reinforcements from Turkey, and even the four battalions and guns sent ten days ago will hardly suffice to maintain law and order in the presence of those who are now menacing it. Although the danger at Medina is urgent, that arising from the defiant attitude of the tribes of Yemen is in reality the more serious. It is also the recurrence of an oft-encountered peril which has at times tasked the strength of the Ottoman Empire so greatly that the Porte has more than once given up the idea of successfully dealing with it. Yemen is the South-West Province of Arabia, and includes within its limits the city of Mocha. The inhabitants are among the most warlike of the Arab tribes, and they have always aspired to maintain their independence of the Sultan, partly on account of their disbelief in his claims to represent the Caliphate, and partly because they preferred a life of unfettered liberty in their own mountainous home. In the year 1635 they emancipated themselves from the Turkish yoke, and were ruled for nearly two centuries and a half by their own Sheikhs. The Turks were obliged to satisfy themselves during that long period with the military occupation of the three Holy Cities, but the caravans of pilgrims from Jeddah to Mecca had repeatedly to fight their way through marauding bands in order to visit the Prophet's Shrine. The establishment of British power at Aden, followed up by the occupation of Perim, aroused considerable alarm in the Sultan's advisers as to the security of their hold on the three cities, which alone made the decrees of the Ottoman Sultan pass current throughout the world of Islam. This anxiety might not, perhaps, have led to action on the part of the Porte; but, at this very juncture, an Arab Chief committed an outrage that could not be overlooked or pardoned. The Emir of Asir, a district north of Yemen, marched south and seized the harbour of Hodeidah, and thus isolated the small garrison stationed at Mocha. An army was at once sent from Constantinople to punish the offender; and his own territory was rapidly overrun and subjected. Glad of so good an excuse, the Porte then ordered its troops to march into the southern district of Yemen, and to reduce it to obedience. Ghazi Mukhtar, then a lieutenant general, was entrusted with the task, and, despite the valour of the Arabs, the strength of their forts, and the inclemency of the climate, he was completely successful. Within twelve months of his landing at Hodeidah, Yemen was again reduced to the condition of a province of the Sultan, but the expedition involved the sacrifice of four thousand Turkish soldiers. The origin of the present insurrection is not clearly ascertained, but the natives were, no doubt, greatly encouraged to make an attempt to re-assert their independence by the large withdrawal of Turkish troops that took place at the time of the war with Russia. Nor are the objects they have before them much better known, although it is possible that the impulse which has stirred them into action comes from the Nejed Chief, who during these last few years has been gathering into his hands the nucleus of a considerable power.—Standard.

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THE RELATIONS BETWEEN GERMANY AND RUSSIA.

The Berlin correspondent of the *Daily News* telegraphed on Sunday night:—Although the semi-official papers have taken great trouble of late to deny the statements previously made that the friendly relations between Germany and Russia have been strained, still reports of a growing character have been circulated here during the last two days. It is stated that difficulties of a diplomatic nature have occurred between Germany and Russia and Austria. I have been assured from fairly good quarters that as far as Germany is concerned, these reports are not true. Still, a daily reader of the German Press and a diligent follower of the politics of the day, military and otherwise, I have no doubt that there is something in the air which smells most unpleasantly of gunpowder. The Germans of course want peace; but that troubles break out, they consider themselves certain of assistance from Austria. This may appear a rash statement to make, but it is nevertheless true. Ever since Prince Bismarck's visit to Vienna, Austria has been taken in tow by Germany and the German press. Any offence which the Russians may give to Austria rebounds with double force on Germany. The Berlin press publishes articles against Russia which become day by day more important. It is stated that the meeting of the Emperors at Danzig last autumn has produced no results of importance. It is generally assumed here that Russia's enmity is at present particularly directed against Austria. Germany, of course, is entirely innocent of any desire to mix herself up in the affair, but should Austria's interests be touched, she could, it is said, not leave her friend in the lurch. One Berlin paper, writing on this subject, says that Marshal Moltke stated not long ago in Parliament that Germany must be armed for the next 50 years. These words are as fresh as ever to-day in the public mind, and although Gen. Schöell's speech has been disavowed by the Russian Government, still it has no more been forgotten here than the late unscrupulous attacks which the Russian press deemed fit to indulge in against Germany and Austria particularly.

MOVEMENTS IN AFGHANISTAN.

The Calcutta correspondent of the *Times* telegraphed on Sunday says:—Only two items of Afghan news have been officially issued during the past week—namely, that the Amir is said to have ordered the collection at Candahar of the balance of the revenue for the current year, amounting to ten lakhs; and that, owing to the arrest of

the Ghilzai Khan at Cabul, orders have been dispatched to Candahar for the disarming and disbanding of the Indari Ghilzai regiment, 1,000 strong, and two regiments have been sent from Cabul for the purpose of disarming the *Civil and Military Gazette*, a Lahore paper, publishes a report which, if true, points to serious complications at Herat. It is that the Amir has ordered the Governor of that place, Abdul Kadir Khan, to make over the city and fortress to Yusuf Khan, and to proceed to take the Governorship of Candahar. Kadir, however, refused to obey, saying that he was appointed Governor by Isa Khan, without whose orders he would not move; and the Amir directed the execution of Kadir's brother, Abdul Ghia Khan, who happened to be in Cabul. The report goes on to say that Herat is now in open revolt and a force of three arms has been sent from Cabul to suppress the rebellion. These rumours from Lahore, originating as they generally do in the gossip of the Peshawar bazaar, must always be received with caution. No confirmation of this story has yet reached the Government of India, and the chances are that it is exaggerated, if not wholly false. But beyond doubt the Amir's hold on Herat is slight, and the latest authentic news from that quarter indicates the existence of an uneasy feeling, which may at any moment break out into open revolt.

COURT AND FASHIONABLE NEWS.

THE QUEEN AND PRINCESS BEATRICE drove out yesterday, attended by the Duchess of Roxburgh and the Hon. Horatia Spofford. Her Majesty walked out this morning with Princess Beatrice. Prince Leopold's knee is nearly well, and his Royal Highness will very shortly be able to walk. The Queen continues to receive favourable reports of the Duke of Connaught, who is making satisfactory progress.

SUNDAY. The Queen drove out yesterday afternoon attended by the Duchess of Roxburgh and the Hon. Horatia Spofford. Her Majesty walked out this morning with Princess Beatrice. Prince Leopold's knee is nearly well, and his Royal Highness will very shortly be able to walk. The Queen continues to receive favourable reports of the Duke of Connaught, who is making satisfactory progress.

The Prince and Princess of Wales and Princess Victoria and Maud went to a grand military ball at the Royal Albert Hall on Saturday afternoon in aid of the funds of the Royal Cambridge Asylum for Soldiers' Widows. The Prince of Wales, attended by the Hon. H. Tyrwhitt-Wilson, dined with the members of the Savage Club at Willis's Rooms on Saturday evening.

Baron de Saffier, Austro-Hungarian Minister to Washington, and the Hon. E. Allen, United States senator, were amongst the passengers by the *Congress* which sailed from New York for London on Saturday morning. The *Servia* had on board an unusually numerous company of passengers for this season of the year.

The Earl of Dunraven arrived in Queens-town on Sunday morning. The Earl of Wiltton's condition still causes much anxiety, but as he has been in an equally dangerous state before hopes are entertained of his ultimate recovery. On Saturday the subjoined bulletin was issued at 11 a.m.:—The Earl of Wiltton has suffered a serious relapse yesterday evening; has been some hours sleeping during the night, and has to a certain extent rallied this morning. On Sunday the following was received from "Egerton Lodge, and as will be seen, was more favourable than the preceding one:—"Feb. 12, 10.30 a.m.: The Earl of Wiltton had passed a quiet night, and had more sleep. This morning his lordship had gained strength, and his general condition had improved. Dr. Garrod, his lordship's usual medical adviser, has been twice to Egerton Lodge to see him, and Dr. Marriott and Mr. Willan are in constant attendance.

The Right Hon. Spencer H. Walpole, M.P., and Mrs. Walpole have arrived in Eastern-square from Ealing for the Parliamentary session.

Sir Henry and Hon. Lady St. John Mildmay and Miss Mildmay have arrived at 45, Eaton-place, from Dogmersfield.

The Lady Georgiana Cordington and Miss Cordington have left Thomas's Hotel for Dordington.

Mr. Frederick and Lady Lucy Calvert have arrived at their residence in Upper Grosvenor-street.

Mr. W. and Hon. Mrs. Beckett Denison and Miss Denison have arrived at their residence in Piccadilly.

Mr. Magniac, M.P., and Hon. Mr. Magniac and family have arrived in town, to remain until Easter.

Mr. Bulkeley Hughes, member for the Carnarvon Boroughs, has suffered a very serious relapse, and is reported to be in a very serious state. Owing to the advanced age of the hon. member grave apprehensions are felt as to his recovery.

The death of Charlotte Hon. Lady Grey, occurred on Sunday afternoon at the venerable lady's house in Seaton-place, at the age of 95. The deceased lady was the only daughter of the late Sir Charles des Vaux, first baronet, by Mary Anne, third daughter of the Very Rev. Arthur Chalmers, Bishop of Exeter. She married, August 20, 1812, General Henry George Grey, G.C.B., and G.C.H., second son of the first Earl Grey, and brother of the late Earl, the eminent statesman, and was left a widow in January, 1845.

ECHOES OF THE WEEK.

General Sir Garnet Wolseley, so the papers say, has "put his foot down" in opposition, for military reasons, to the Channel Tunnel scheme; and Sir Garnet's experience and judgment being manifestly great, and his name a tower of strength, the disavowal in which he holds the project for the practical abolition of "the silver streak" should, and indeed must, have great weight when the Channel Tunnel enterprise comes to be seriously considered by the Government and the Legislature. But, remembering how frequently railways were, in the beginning, denounced by the *Quarterly Review*, and how the Suez Canal scheme was vehemently opposed by the very journals which now complacently talk about our highway to India, I think that about the wisest course for the philosophically-minded observer to take is to bear in mind the Five Aphorisms of Hippocrates:—(1) Life is short; (2) Art is long; (3) The occasion fleeth; (4) Judgment difficult; (5) Experience fallacious. These aphorisms have not by any means been repeated ad nauseam.

The Channel Tunnel may not be made in our time, nor in our children's time; but this world has a confirmed habit of refusing to stand still; and the most surprising things may be accomplished, or the prophetic of Nostradamus may be accomplished, or the prophecy of the prophet may be fulfilled, before the play of Mr. Proctor's comet. I came last November from Venice to Paris by way of Turin, Modena, the Mont Cenis Tunnel, Genoa, and Mâcon; and when I reached home I had the pleasure of reading in *Temple Bar* a very beautiful and

tenderly-written love-tale, called "A Story of a Railway Journey," by Lady Lindsay, of Balcarres. The ground traversed by the lovers in the charming novelette was the ground I had just been over myself; and I confess that my dull and unimaginative spirit had not hitherto discovered any element of love in the episodes of a railway journey. That was left for Lady Lindsay to do.

But, long before her Ladyship was born, I remember that the new railways in Italy and Italy at all; when that was no longer the case, when the Bible and Murray's Handbooks were impartially confiscated at the Pontifical Custom-house; and when Italy herself was contemptuously styled by statesmen of the nineteenth century as "the Holy Alliance type" of a geographical expression. A tunnel under Mont Cenis! A tunnel beneath St. Gothard! A railway across the Brenner! What visionaries—what madmen would the men have been declared to be who ventured to touch such schemes when sages of such vast judgment and experience as Neesedroff and Metternich were dominant in Europe!

It is to be hoped that some good may come out of the evil perpetrated by the frantic iconoclasts of St. Paul's-churchyard. Bird's sculptured group representing Queen Anne looking down on four figures at the respective corners of the pedestal, and supposed to be holies Europe, Asia, Africa, and America, has long been an eyesore to Vren's majestic baselike, and an architectural scandal to the eyes of the aesthetes, in a shameless and hopeless state of dilapidation. I earnestly hope that this "sooty and dingy" group will soon be pulled down by the authorities.

Bird was in great vogue in his day (1667-1731). He worked quickly, boldly, and cheaply, and was in much request for his works. According to Horace Walpole, the performance which first brought Bird into notice was his monument at Westminster to the Duke of Devonshire, the Duke's friend, and member that he whipped Sir Roger de Coverley's grandfather who would not take off his hat when Charles II. visited Westminster School, lest, in the event of his having uncovered, the Westminster boys should be induced to believe that there was a Greater Man in England than Dr. Busby. The means by which Bird arrived at this knowledge of Busby's facial appearance were decidedly odd. The "Plagiosus Orbilius" of Westminster School had never permitted very much to be drawn. The moment he was dead his friends had a wax in plaster taken from his face, and thence a drawing in crayons, from which White engraved his print, and Bird carved his image. A somewhat circumlocutory process.

Whatever, with malice aforethought, with Master Wren, and the Livermore of the Worshipful Company of Merchant Taylors at their noble old Hall in Threadneedle-street. I went thither with a special eye towards the recommendations of Dr. Benjamin Franklin, the origin of which we are bound to eat and drink "thriftily," partaking only of the simplest diet, by not partaking of any rich sauces or made dishes, and by wholly abstaining from any fomented beverages. I was hungry, and on having consumed a plateful of turtle, a slice of roast mutton, and four Brussels sprouts, I ventured upon one glass of dry champagne and half a bottle of Apollinaris. This to some may seem comparatively moderate; but, according to Dr. Richardson's showing, I must have sinned grievously against the "thriftiness" first by eating that plateful of turtle, and next by drinking the glass of dry champagne. And surely plain pump water would have been "thriftier" than the Apollinaris.

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great ability and a versatile creative genius, he was rather out of place in regimental life, and indeed, his mind was so absorbed in mathematical and chemical calculations that he was sometimes a little distracted when suddenly called upon to perform military duties. The wags, alluding to Palliser's absence of mind, were wont to say, "Of the General's two aides-de-camp, one has no head, and the other no legs."—*Tanqueray Fair.*

LITERATURE, SCIENCE, AND ART.

The *Athenaeum* states that Lord Archibald Campbell is engaged in collecting legends and traditions regarding the Campbells and Argyllshires.

Mr. P. M. Thornton has in the press a third volume, bringing his "Foreign Secretaries of the Nineteenth Century" from 1834 up to the last general election.

It is announced that Mr. Tuer's recently published book, "The Flight into Egypt," is nearly out of print, and that the price will be raised to three guineas. The large paper edition, published at five guineas, is already out of print.

Chapman and Hall will shortly publish a "Charles Dickens Birthday Book." Miss Dickens has compiled the volume, which has cost her more than a year of labour. Mrs. C. E. Perugini supplies five illustrations, namely, a frontispiece and the seasons. They are not taken from any thing or character in Dickens's works, but the models are all of children.

The heritors (*Anglicae*, freeholders) of the little border town of Dunse, in Berwickshire, have solemnly resolved to revert to the ancient spelling of the name—Duns, without the final *e*—which is said to have prevailed down to the year 1746.

A monthly journal, styled the *Irish Economist*, and dealing with agricultural and domestic economy and finance, is to be started in Dublin next week.

Miss Baxter and Dr. Baxter have now initiated to the Dundee Town Council that they have executed a deed of endowment and trust with reference to the proposed university in Dundee. Of their gift of £140,000, one-half has been expended on a site with buildings, while £70,000 has been set apart for salaries and incidental charges. The deed names the first members of the council, and proposes the subjects of instruction, viz., natural philosophy and mathematics, chemistry, engineering, drawing, classics, and history, English language and literature, and French and German.

Mr. Robert Buchanan has two new works nearly ready for publication. First, a volume of poems; and, secondly, a romance in three volumes, the *Martyrdom of Madeline*, which has for its theme "the social conspiracy against womanhood," and was planned with, and written in close sequence to Mr. Buchanan's powerful "God and the Man" and "A Study of the Vanity and Folly of Individual Life." The *Martyrdom of Madeline* has been running its course through some literary papers, and is likely to attract attention in certain circles in London, as some of the characters and "society" journals are dealt with in it, and the editors of two of them are Messrs. Chatto and Windus have in the press "Ireland under the Land Act," being a reprint of the letters contributed recently to the *Standard* by the Special Commissioner of that paper in Ireland. There will be an appendix giving the leading cases under the Act, with the evidence in full, and a collection of judicial dicta, etc.

A new introduction to dogmatic theology on the basis of the Thirty-nine Articles, by the Rev. A. L. Ligon, is in the press, and will be published shortly by Mr. Elliot Stock.

A correspondent writes as follows with reference to the colour of the hair of Mary, Queen of Scots:—"I have in my possession an authentic small lock of Mary, Queen of Scots' hair. It came to me from my grand-mother, Lady Charlotte Campbell, and the paper in which it has always been enclosed has the following inscription in her handwriting:—'Friday, November 30th, 1816—Queen Mary's hair, given me by Lord Belhaven and Stenton from out his cabinet, which he had obtained from the Hon. Mr. Majesty. The hair was sent to one of her adherents previous to the battle of Langside. The hair is a bright golden colour, and very fine and silky. The remainder of the lock Lord Belhaven to the Queen a few years ago."

The members of the Royal Commission on Technical Instruction have been visiting the chief schools and adult classes in the Manchester district, as well as those of Liverpool, Oldham, and the other centres of textile manufacture.

The Marquis of Lorne is reported to have taken the initiatory steps for the establishment of an Academy of Sciences in Canada on the principle of the Académie de Paris.

Mr. Woodhead will probably send to the next Academy exhibition several sculptures. Among them is a marble statue of Ariel. Ariel sits on a rent pine stump, stooping forward and bent like a bow which is about to be unstrung. The knees are raised and embraced by both arms and hands, which form a ring that the closely knit fingers complete, and the dainty spirit looks forward with brightening eyes, a half-smile, half-elfish smile, and quaint *espérillerie* which are charming. Above the slender shoulders, and apparently quivering with suppressed vitality, rise two bird-like wings. So intense is the animation of the figure that we expect to see it straighten itself and launch itself into the air.

The Assyrian collection of the British Museum, which has been damaged by fire, has been overlooked. On a recent examination this plate has been found to be covered with Egyptian hieroglyphs. So far as can now be ascertained, the signs do not give any sense, and appear to have been only drawn as ornaments. It has been conjectured that the Assyrians borrowed the pattern of their bronze plates from Egypt, and this specimen seems to confirm the conjecture.

Mr. A. Eason and Mr. George Andrew are about to proceed to Yunnan for the China Inland Mission, after spending some time in learning Chinese at Kwei-yang-fu. An Englishwoman, the first of her sex to venture the journey, has lately started from Shanghai for June-fu, in the Honan province, in the person of a hunter, the wife of another member of the same society.—*Academy.*

At Seville, says the *Athenaeum*, preparations are being made for celebrating the bicentenary of the death of Murillo, who "died in that city in 1682." The famous painter died at Seville, April 3, 1682.

The Fine Art Society, 148, New Bond-street, have issued a beautiful mezzotint engraving by Mr. H. Herkomer, A.R.A., of Mr. J. E. Millais' painting of Lord Beaconsfield. It is made to form a companion picture to the engraving of Mr. Millais' portrait of Mr. Gladstone.

At a meeting of the Royal Scottish Academy, held in Edinburgh yesterday, Mr. Robert Gibb, A.R.S.A., was elected an Academician, in the room of the late Mr. William Brodie, R.S.A.

A Photographic Exhibition, open to the United Kingdom, was thrown open in Dundee this week, in the presence of an influential assemblage. It contains about 2,000 works of art from all parts of the Kingdom.

A number of artists residing in Kensington have obtained leave from the vestry of that parish to use the Vestry Hall for two days, during which their works, before being sent to the Royal Academy exhibition, may be seen by their friends and others. The artists are to pay half-price, that is 15 guineas, for the use of the hall, to pay the expenses incurred, and to find their own easels and other apparatus.

The *Art Journal* for this month contains an effective etching by Mr. J. MacWhirter, A.R.A.,

"By the Loch Side," in which the various adjuncts to the scene depicted are harmoniously worked out with a very pleasing result. There is also a fine engraving by Mr. F. Hall of C. E. Perugini's picture, "A Siesta," which was purchased by the Duke of Albany at the Royal Academy last year. Some excellent views of Hull are among the miscellaneous illustrations, and the letterpress contains an article by E. Ingress Bell on "The True Relation of the Painter's Art to Architecture."

The frontispiece of *Art and Letters* for February is a charming engraving by F. Meaulle, from the picture by Adrien Moreau, a Kermesse in the Middle Ages. "Military Painters" are represented by several examples by A. de Neume, Berne Belloc, and Ernest Crofts, A.R.A. The works of G. B. Tripoli are also represented by some capital engravings, among the examples being "The Loves of Antony and Cleopatra," and a *fac simile* of an etching of "The Flight into Egypt." The literary matter is bright and in general the appearance of this comparatively new publication promises to be a success in every sense.

MUSIC.

A musical association as full of years as the Philharmonic Society, which entered on Thursday last upon its seventieth season of activity—boasts, says the *Standard*, something prouder than a mere record of longevity, and may take to itself some of the pretensions of the survival of the fittest. That the society for some years past has not occupied the artistic eminence which once befell it, it can only be attributable to causes the remedy for which was sufficiently obvious; but now a new lease of popular favour seems to have been entered upon, and the old trunk, so carefully planned and so tenderly nurtured in the days of yore, may even yet burst forth in leaves, and bear fruit anew.

The great stumbling-block has been the objection of the directors to produce English compositions, and this obstacle cannot be said to have been surmounted by the two overtures by Messrs. F. Corder and C. Villiers Stanford, which appear in the prospectus as *sopra* to the Carthusian of public opinion. Now that a symphony by one of England's youngest representative musicians has been heard with extraordinary pleasure by the public, it would almost seem as though the old English orchestral society to have made a strenuous effort on behalf of native art; and a couple of overtures—though welcome additions in themselves—cannot be regarded as a stop-gap. The fact is that the Philharmonic directors are nothing if not German at heart, and though this is laudable enough with respect to the masterpieces of Beethoven and other great composers, it is evident that the feeling ought not to be allowed to prevail to the exclusion of every other school than that of Germany. The authors for the ensuing season are Beethoven, Mozart, Schubert, Liszt, Rubinstein, Brahms, Schumann, Sgambati, Mendelssohn, Weber, Joachim, F. Corder, C. V. Stanford, Wagner, Spontini, Mendelssohn. Apart from works of limited excellence which the London public is familiar with, there are announced for performance several novelties—the symphonic poem "Hungarian" of Liszt; Rubinstein's "Paradise Lost," for solo voices, chorus, and orchestra; an *English Libretto* by Mr. Hans Hersey; Brahms' choral ode, "Nanie," and new piano-forte concerto, and a work of the latter class by Signor Sgambati, which will serve to introduce the Roman pianist to the English audience; and, finally, the concert overtures by Messrs. Corder and Stanford already alluded to. The remainder of the scheme does not contain any features of exceptional interest, though amateurs of the violin will hail the announcement of Herr Joachim's Hungarian Concerto, and the example of its order since Mendelssohn's with the heartiest satisfaction. Of course the solo part will be in Herr Joachim's own hands. Engagements have been made with Messrs. Christine Nilsson, Rose Hersey, Marie Roze, Misses Santley and Orford, Mr. Lloyd, Barton McGuckin, Frank Boyle, M. F. King, Barrington Foot, F. King, Scharwenka, Sgambati, Carrodus, and Joachim; while there is a possibility of the array of soloists being further strengthened by the accession of Miss Alhani, Sembrich, Patey, and Sophie Mutter.

The opening concert was an important one, if only from the mere circumstance of Beethoven's Choral Symphony being incorporated in the programme. Time was when this colossal development of the symphony was not thoroughly comprehended by the mass, and when its performance was almost a matter of hazard, as far as hitting the susceptibilities of the public was concerned. Fortunately, that is all changed, and this glorious effort of genius is eagerly welcomed on all hands. This is only as it should be, but nevertheless it is a gratifying sign of the times. The great "No. 9" occupied the second part of the entertainment, the first part consisting of Wagner's *Freischütz* overture; the chorus of *Requiem* from Liszt's *Prometheus*; Molique's concerto for violin in A minor, No. 5; the quartet "God is a Spirit," from Sterndale Bennett's *Woman of Samaria*; and the prelude to Wagner's opera, *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*. The execution of these several exercises left little, if anything to be desired, the band of 80 performers, under the

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LONDON, FEBRUARY 13-14, 1882.

THE LATEST PHASE OF THE EGYPTIAN QUESTION.

Although, so far as the English Government can help to enlighten it, Parliament is left completely in the dark concerning our Egyptian policy, a flood of information has been let in upon the question during the past few days from several quarters. M. Gambetta has gone upon his travels, and with his fall a more circumspect policy has been adopted by the French Foreign Office. Once more the English Cabinet is experiencing that sense of sudden isolation caused by the defection of France, which last led to the break up of the European Fleet then assembled in the Adriatic in the autumn of 1880. It may be doubted, however, whether, even if M. Gambetta had not been thrown from his saddle, our own Government would have abided by the principles laid down in the Identico Note, to whose "success" Earl Granville has testified. We cannot but think that the Leader of the Opposition in the Upper House would do well to invite the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to make some statement as to the communications, written or oral, which have during the last few days passed between him and the Representatives of the Powers who read their own Identico Note to Said Pacha. Unless we are very much misinformed, Earl Granville has been devoting his energies to minimising the success and to undoing the "great effect" of his former despatches, and has been professing in his assurances to more than one Foreign Ambassador in this Capital, that his despatch of November and the Identico Note of January really meant nothing at all, and that the desire mainly cherished by this country is that the affairs of Egypt should be treated as the common concern of all the Powers. Now, before commenting on the levity, as well as the danger of this course, we are forced to ask what relation it bears to the attitude maintained at Cairo up to date by the agents of the Cabinet? Will the noble Lord maintain that it is not "substantially different" from the line of conduct laid down in the Identico Note of January? If that be so, why did Germany, Austria, Russia, and Italy at once take action at Constantinople, and why has it become necessary to explain to them that we are most desirous to have their co-operation and to act strictly in concert with their wishes? Could anything be plainer than that Lord Granville either was alarmed by the sound he himself had made in the Identico Note, or by the counter sound which it at once evoked from the Four Powers. Whether it be wise, or whether it be unwise, to associate those Powers with ourselves in the direction and control of the affairs of Egypt, it is placed beyond dispute that such was not our intention a month ago. Whether it be wise or whether it be unwise to recognise in the amplest manner the Sovereign rights of the Sultan over the Khedive, it is incontestable that we did not recognise, nay, that we ignored, them, until they were brought to our attention by the Powers that took umbrage at our separate action. That in what appertains to Egypt our Government have first said one thing and then said another is scarcely open to doubt. The country, however, would not be unwilling to make allowance for the inherent difficulties of the situation, if it thought that at last our policy had got its head in the right direction, and that the period of vacillation was closed. But what is the present position? Unless Earl Granville can give a contradiction to the assertion that his recent efforts have been directed to tranquillising the Powers and to inviting their co-operation in Egypt, it is not only too plain that our interests in that country are going to be placed, by our own consent—indeed, at our own invitation—under the protection of the European Concert? This is what comes of writing strong Notes, and supporting them with weak action. There is no difficulty in understanding the dilemma in which the Cabinet now finds itself. Either we are to make good the warning addressed to the National Party in Egypt by the Joint Note, or we are to make good the contempt with which that warning has been treated. From the former course it is clear the Government shrink. Naturally, however, they are ill content to leave the matter in the humiliating position implied by doing nothing. In order to escape from either forcibly controlling Arabi Bey and his associates, or from avowedly submitting to them altogether, they have appealed to the European Concert to get them out of the difficulty, and one of two things must now infallibly occur. Either the European Concert will do nothing, in which case the National Party will continue to encroach upon the powers of the Control, and to appropriate the Revenue intended for the Bondholders; or the European Concert will resort to active interference, and Egyptian affairs, in which we are supposed to have a special and a leading interest, will become the business of the whole world. Be it borne in mind, moreover, that one of the members of the European Concert is Russia, whom Lord Derby reminded that, even in case of war with Turkey, Egypt must remain entirely out of the sphere of her military operations. Does the English Cabinet propose to allow the Court of St. Petersburg to have any say or share in controlling or directing policy at Cairo? This is to put the extreme result of this new expedition of our Foreign Office. Are we to be assured, in due course, that it would not be right, not moral, not Christian, to assume greater influence in Egypt than we are willing to accord to other Powers? If the plea were a sincere one it would deserve the contempt that is the proper answer to sentimental folly. But in this instance, at least, it is not sincere. It is merely a flimsy veil for failure and incapacity. We seem to have no policy, whether in Egypt or elsewhere, unless it be that on no account must we offend anybody, quarrel with anybody, dissatisfy anybody. Thus we are driven from pillar to post, and have no firm standing ground anywhere.—Standard.

THE COMING CLOTURE.

Ministers have not only the courage of their convictions, but the daring which a consciousness of their majority inspires. The rumours of concession and compromise in connection with the closure resolution are absolutely unfounded, and the

Government will adhere not only to its principle, but to its letter. What, Mr. Gladstone and his colleagues ask, is the use of a majority, if it is not to be employed upon such occasions as the present? It is the business of followers to follow. The Liberal chiefs have come to the determination that the power of ending a debate should be vested in the House of Commons, and that its exercise should be regulated by a bare preponderance of votes. How far this decision is wise, and whether it is politic to place the power which it involves upon the Ministerialists, are not questions with which we are now concerned. Events alone can justify the wisdom or expose the folly of the step. That the Cabinet will succeed in giving immediate effect to their policy there is no doubt. When the eventful division in the discussion, which begins on Thursday, takes place, Ministers will not have many votes to spare. There will be several abstentions and some secessions. But the Whigs will not retire in a body, as has been asserted; they have listened to the voice of reason, according to the Ministerial interpretation of the term. Mr. Walter, Mr. Gourley, and one or two more will go into the Opposition lobby, but they will do so almost alone. The Conservatives are, of course, pledged to resist the closure to the last, but it is by no means certain that they feel as strongly on the subject as they profess. On the other hand, there is reason to think that some of them will have a change of heart. It has been said that when the Opposition come to Power they will endeavour to repeal the closure. They will do nothing of the sort. They will, on the other hand, derive more practical advantage from it than the Liberals. When they are in office they will have to deal with the eternal question of Ireland. In all probability they will have to pass a Coercion Bill. They would certainly not do this without the closure. The idea of applying coercion to the House of Commons may be unacceptable and repulsive; but there is the best reason to believe that it is recognised as inevitable quite as much by the Conservatives as by the Government. For these reasons we hold that the resistance to the closure resolution will be much more apparent than real. There is a prodigious fuss over it; but the tumult will soon subside, and the echoes of angry voices will die away.—World.

VALENTINE'S DAY.

The particular fashion of exchanging love greetings which has rather arbitrarily fixed on the Fourteenth of February for its anniversary, and on Valentine for its saint, has varied with the variation of time and century. Valentine is enrolled in the list of Christian martyrs, but the rites which have assumed his name were celebrated by pious pagans long before he was thought of.

The second week of February is somewhat bleak for assignments in English woods, but the birds seem to find it a suitable period for commencing their household arrangements. Birds have always been favourite subjects for the illustration of the pictorial misadventures about so freely at this time. These effusions have, truth to say, degenerated of late years into rather perfunctory and illusive makeshifts. Sundry specimens of gaudy emblems which have this year presented themselves boldly to the inquirer as Valentines have a false air of stale New Year or Christmas cards about them. What has a representation of an Eastern maiden selecting from among the brilliant stuffs of a tin-trader's merchant, with the legend underneath, "With the best greetings of the season," to do with Valentine's Day? The thing is manifestly inadequate. Better by far the archaic simplicity of the stanza which has helped many an ardent but inexperienced suitor to the trouble of a wordless passion—"The rose is red; the violet blue; Honey's sweet; And so are you." The truly single-minded lover will find more satisfaction in that personal, if crude, form of address than in a lithographed staid after Mr. Adams, or even in painted satin pin-cushions, packets of soap, or bottles of perfume. Matters were far more serious in the old English times, when young men and maidens drew for each other on Valentine's Eve in lotteries, and the gentlemen were expected only to make presents to his fairer of more or less value, but to serve as her faithful swain and servant for the rest of the year. Married people do not seem to have been exempt from this playful penalty, which has led to a larger acceptance on cognate engagements than has come down to our own times, at least in outward appearance. Mr. Peys records the circumstance of being drawn as Valentine by a little girl, which pleases the frugal gentleman, "it saving me of something more which I must have given to others." The custom of annual greetings between friends, on whatever occasion, falls easily and commonly into the shape of giving presents; but this is a mistake. A dozen pairs of long Swedish gloves, a pair of pretty earrings are tempting things to give; but the habit of making gifts is one which places the man of slender means at the mercy of the millionaire, and it is apt to degenerate into vulgar competition. Valentines above all things should be free from the mercenary element. Cupid has no pockets, nor indeed any possibility of them. Flirting and love-making have little to do with questions of currency, and have been carried on from immemorial independently of them.—Daily News.

FASHIONABLE NEWS.

On Monday the Empress of Austria was out with the North Shropshire Hounds, but although Viscount Hill was most energetic in his attempt to provide sport and secured his district until after five o'clock, only one fox was found, and he was killed almost immediately. The meet was at Press Station, and at 11.30 her Majesty rode up with Count Larisch who is hunting with the Leicestershire Hounds, but has come to Combermere for a couple of days, Count Kinsky, Captain Middleton (her pilot last year), Prince Liechtenstein, and Major Bulkeley. Her Majesty and suite returned home at three.

The Princess Louise (Marchioness of Lorne), who has been on a visit to the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall at Windsor Castle, returned to Kensington Palace on Monday evening.

The Earl and Countess of Derby returned to St. James's-square on Monday from Keston, where they have been passing a few days.

The Earl and Countess of Jersey have left Great Stanhope-street for Middleton Park, Bicester.

The Countess of Lonsdale, accompanied by several members of her family, will leave her house-terrace early on Monday morning for Lowther Castle, in order to attend the late Earl's funeral.

The Right Hon. Charles P. Villiers, M.P., was said to be better on Monday, but was suffering from weakness from his close confinement to his room. Some weeks must elapse before the right hon. gentleman will be able to resume his place in the House of Commons.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—MONDAY.

The Lord Chancellor took his seat on the woolsack at five o'clock.

THE WORKING OF THE LAND ACT.

Lord ORANMORE, in moving for various returns respecting the names, qualifications, and action of the Sub-Commissioners appointed under the Irish Land Act, said the Government ought to inform the House whether those gentlemen, previously to their appointment as Sub-Commissioners, had a practical acquaintance with the value of land in Ireland, and also in what cases they had been selected by the Government. The noble Lord criticised adversely the proceedings of the Sub-Commissioners, and, adhering to the pamphlet entitled, "How to become the Owner of your Farm," observed that there were rumours in Dublin to the effect that his publication at the Stationery Office there was not so accidental as the Government had been assured. He thought that, at all events, the mere fact of its publication at that office showed how important it was to have the Land Act administered by impartial officials. He repeated his charge against Mr. Gladstone and some of the right hon. gentlemen's colleagues, that speeches delivered by them, which he was sure had been intended only to catch the Irish vote, had done more than all other causes to stir up ill-feeling between class and class in Ireland; and he strongly denounced the Irish policy of the Government since their accession to office.

Lord CARLINGFORD thought that as Lord ORANMORE had given not the smallest previous intimation of his intention to go into so many Irish topics on that occasion, it would be more convenient for him to defer a reply till early day, when the working of the Land Act would be brought under the notice of the House by a noble lord on the Opposition side. With one slight modification, the returns moved for would be produced by the Government without objection. He might be asked to state whether he had never been Solicitor to the Land League, had sent in his resignation as Solicitor to the Irish Land Commission, and his resignation had been accepted; Mr. Godley had sent in his, but it had not been accepted.

Lord CARLINGFORD believed that he had just stated, thought there existed good reasons for believing that Mr. Fottrell was at one time Solicitor of the Land League. It was, too, that Mr. Fottrell was the author of the letters of which the pamphlet was composed.

Lord FORTESCUE was of opinion that the explanation of the Government was not satisfactory. The fact that the Land Court had been set up, and that the Government would not increase the public confidence in the impartiality of those who composed it. He suggested that Mr. Godley, the Secretary, who allowed the pamphlet to be circulated without the authority of the Commission, had also been too lenient.

Lord SALISBURY remarked that a new light was thrown on that matter if it were the fact that Mr. Fottrell had concocted the materials of the pamphlet. As to Mr. Godley, either he was an innocent and careless or he must have thought that his superiors would view with indifference the circulation of the pamphlet.

Lord GRANVILLE, while bearing testimony to the general intelligence of Mr. Godley, agreed with Lord Salisbury that he acted wrongly in respect of the pamphlet.

The House adjourned at 25 minutes past 6 o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—MONDAY.

The Speaker took the chair shortly before four o'clock.

NEW WRIT.
On the motion of Mr. R. Power, a new writ was ordered for county Meath, Mr. A. M. Sullivan having resigned.

QUESTIONS.
Mr. GLADSTONE, in answer to a question from Sir W. Lawson, said it was not intended to introduce a Bill for the alteration of the Licensing Laws; but the Local Government Bill would have a bearing on the grant of licences.

In answer to Colonel Alexander, Sir W. HARCOURT stated that a Police Superannuation Bill had been prepared and would shortly be introduced.
In answer to Mr. Bourke, Sir C. DILKE said it was intended to present a paper on Egypt, and in answer to Mr. Norton, the Under-Secretary said that he had no official mission there were no papers relating to Mr. Errington's visit to Rome which could be produced. Sir H. Wolff having asked questions, the Under-Secretary read a letter from Mr. Errington to show to Cardinal Jacobini as his authority. Sir C. DILKE said that there was no truth in the statement that Mr. Goschen's visit to Berlin had any official character.

In answer to Baron de Vismes, Mr. Gladstone declined to give any facilities for the motion in reference to the outrages on the Jews in case the debate on the address presented itself.

THE DEBATE ON THE ADDRESS.

The adjourned debate on the address was resumed by Mr. PLUNKET, who first of all vindicated the Irish policy of the late Government, pointing out that they had greatly misjudged the severity of the Coercion Act they found in existence, that they had passed University and Intermediate Education Acts, and that if they had opposed the re-opening of the land question, said Lord Hartington and his colleagues in the lead of the Liberal party. Passing to the course of events under the present Government he showed how they had tolerated the extension of the Land League—in Mr. Chamberlain's language, had refrained from stifling it in order not to prevent reform—and how deplorably the unchecked agitation had demoralised the people. Touching on the operation of the Land Act he complained that in many cases sub-commissioners had been appointed who were partisans, and giving details of what he maintained were gross and unfair reductions of rent he concluded by referring to the speech of Mr. Gladstone last year, a case for compensating the landlords had now been established. Adverting to Mr. Gladstone's speech on Thursday, he asked, amid much cheering from the Opposition, was Home Rule to be heretofore an "open question" in the Cabinet? and warned the Government that whatever concession they might make in this direction would be used for separatist purposes.

Mr. CHAMBERLAIN canvassed in a reproachful vein the speeches of the Opposition during the recess, complaining that no stone had been left unturned to discredit and embarrass the Government, and challenging the Conservative leaders to adopt or repudiate the charges of their followers. Replying to Mr. Gibson's indictment that the Government had not acted with sufficient vigour, he vindicated his often-quoted Liverpool speech, denying emphatically that he had ever advocated the toleration of outrages for the attainment of a political object. By the remark that to stifle the agitation would have been to prevent reform, he had meant, he said, that to resort to repressive measures without attempting to remedy the grievance would have been a course full of danger. Defending the operation of the Act, he pointed out that many of the Sub-Commissioners' decisions had been sustained by the Supreme Court, and asserted that the practice of rack-renting had been proved to exist far more extensively than had been supposed from his close confinement to his room. Some weeks must elapse before the right hon. gentleman will be able to resume his place in the House of Commons.

Mr. NORTHCOKE, who had been charged by Mr. Chamberlain with misrepresenting his Liverpool speech, maintained that the language there used bore out his contention that the Government had failed in their duty in not putting down the Land League and appearing for a political purpose.

Mr. MARIN maintained that it was impossible to keep up rents in Ireland beyond the point permitted by foreign competition, and predicted that if they were not further reduced, there would be an agitation against the judicial rents.

Mr. BLENHEIMASSETT condemned the policy of the Irish extreme party and especially the "No-rent" manifesto, which he believed it would be found impossible to carry out. Speaking from personal experience of the Land Courts, he maintained that the Sub-Commissioners had done substantial justice. At the same time, he admitted that many landlords had suffered severely, and though no case for compensation had been made out, he hoped the Government would be able to see its way to give them some relief.

Mr. BAILEY, criticising the administration of the Coercion Acts, contended that they had been obtained on false pretences, and maintained that Mr. Gladstone had totally misrepresented the aims of the Land League, on the faith of which he had arrested Mr. Parnell and his colleagues.

Mr. T. DICKSON made a strong attack on the Conservative party, pointing out various defects in the Land Act, and, though refusing to vote for the amendment, condemned the policy of coercion.

Lord G. HAMILTON, reverting to Mr. Chamberlain's Liverpool speech, quoted numerous passages from it, and asserted that it convicted the Government of having utilised the Land League for Parliamentary purposes and of having refrained from suppressing it solely with the view of passing the Land Act. This he held to be a gross misrepresentation, and he denounced by the Home Secretary and other Ministers as partaking of a Fenian and semi-seditious character. On the deplorable consequence of the delay in putting down the Land League he dilated at some length, and criticising the administration of the Land Act, he insisted that the Sub-Commissioners had entirely changed its character, and that these officials were frequently partisans, and that their judgments had resulted in public plunder.

Mr. STURGES-BELL contended that in the proceedings of the Sub-Commissioners had been closed an amount of rack-renting which had not been before suspected and which, moreover, had existed for a great number of years. To illustrate this, he quoted various cases, and expressed a decided opinion that the south and west of the Act would probably effect very large reductions of rent. To the charge that the Government had delayed in putting down the Land League, he replied by asserting that its main principles had been fully brought forward by the Land League, and went on. At the same time he argued that the Land League had been progressing, and that nothing could be more flagitious than the change of front effected after the Land Act. Speaking of the fact that the Land League had been suppressed, he said that he believed that if the landlords pressed their claims to justice and moderation their rents would be paid and the Government were ready to assist them.

Mr. GRAY examined in great detail the grounds on which Mr. Parnell's arrest was justified by the Government, contending that his aims and meaning had been completely misrepresented.

On the motion of Mr. SEXTON the debate was again adjourned.
The House adjourned at 20 minutes after 2 o'clock.

POLITICAL AND SOCIAL ITEMS.

(FROM THE "DAILY NEWS.")

We have reason to believe that on Monday a new writ was despatched by Earl Granville to the British representatives at the Courts of Berlin, Vienna, Rome, and St. Petersburg on the subject of Egypt. This step was taken in conjunction with the French Government, which at the same time despatched an identical note to their representatives at these Courts.

The statements current alleging intention on the part of Government to vary the form of the first resolution in the scheme of Parliamentary procedure reform, are entirely without foundation. Mr. Gladstone will on Tuesday move the Resolution, as it has been placed on the paper.

The apparently concerted movement in some quarters to represent the closure clause as being in danger, owing to defection on the Liberal side, has led to a minute estimate of the probabilities of the vote. This shows a minimum number of eight Liberal members who are inclined to regard adversely the Ministerial proposal. But it is by no means certain that when the issue is directly placed before the House these honourable gentlemen will vote with the Conservatives.

Amid the profound interest which gathers round the first clause in Mr. Gladstone's Resolutions on Parliamentary Procedure, those that follow scarcely yet receive attention. There is, nevertheless, evidence that members on both sides believe that the proposal to have two Standing Committees is inadequate to the necessities of the case, and when this part of the scheme is reached amendments will be moved to increase the number.

In the event of Mr. Gladstone finding an opportunity of moving the first resolution on Parliamentary procedure on Thursday next, an event now regarded as settled, the debate will be adjourned till Monday, and will be thereupon proceeded with on all Government nights.

Mr. Bradlaugh took his seat under the gallery in the House of Commons on Monday night, and remained during the question hour. He has made no communication to the Sergeant-at-Arms which indicates a present intention of renewing the conflict for his seat on the floor of the House.

We understand the Government have no intention of following the course suggested by the question of which Mr. Bromley-Devonport has given notice, and moving for the Committee to inquire into the Channel Tunnel scheme.

The Earl of Dunraven was in the House of Lords on Monday night, and subsequently visited the House of Commons. In both places he received many congratulations on his safe return from the United States.

We regret to hear that the English Office have reason to fear that although Mr. Stillman's safety is assured, yet some other Englishman has been lately murdered in Albania. Several persons who have been known to act as special correspondents in those regions have been mentioned in connection with this painful rumour, and inquiries as to their whereabouts are now being made. For obvious reasons we abstain from mentioning names.

(FROM THE "STANDARD.")

Considerable indignation has been caused among some of the supporters of the Government by a circular issued by the Birmingham Liberal Federation on the action of members with reference to the Procedure Resolutions. The Ministerial Whips repudiate any responsibility in the matter.

It is probable that Mr. Balfour will proceed with his Amendment to the effect that the Closure Resolution should be postponed till the other Resolutions have been disposed of, and that on this Amendment a division will be taken.

A meeting of the Irish Parliamentary Party will be held on Tuesday night, the new Rules of Parliamentary procedure, after some discussion an adjournment was taken, without any distinct course of action having been adopted.

THE VOYAGE OF THE "CEYLON."

A passenger in the Ceylon writes to the Daily Star under date Jan. 23:—We left the same evening that we arrived there, just waiting long enough to pick up those who had crossed over from Alexandria, via Cairo, where they had a pleasant stay, visiting the Pyramids, etc. We now settled down for our fortnight at sea, and under the directions of Dr. Stewart, the surgeon of the ship, some of us began to learn our parts for some theatricals to be played just before reaching Bombay. As we got into the Red Sea it began to grow hotter, and soon we found the punkahs a great comfort at meals; they were first used on Christmas Day. A young lady travelling with her father had returned from Cairo very unwell, and gradually became worse, until she died on December 27. She was, sadly enough, her father's only child. The funeral took place the following afternoon, and formed a very impressive ceremony. This event cast a gloom over the ship, and made the Christmas and New Year's festivities flat and dull. On the last night of the old year we had some singing between midnight and 3 a.m., so as to be rejoicing at the same time as our friends at home. On Thursday, Jan. 5, we awoke to find ourselves in the harbour of Bombay, with a beautiful view as the mist cleared away from the islands. The steam launch was ready by the time breakfast was over, and began to take us by relays ashore. We had to go to have to stop in an hotel while the Ceylon went into dry dock, but as she could not get in from insufficiency of water, they had to clear her by heeling her over as they took in coal. The bottom got very foul in the harbour at Smyrna, and this had to be scraped out with a knot and a half an hour, and made us lose time considerably. A great interest in Bombay was in finding out for the first time in a land where so many of one's friends and relations pass the better part of their lives. I suppose there is hardly a family of the upper middle class which has not an interest in India for this reason. I stayed one night at Malabar Hill, a suburb about five miles from the town, and was very much interested in the life of the English landowner. I supposed to find, however, how very ignorant the majority are of the manners and customs of the natives themselves, even after several years in the country. We spent one day in visiting the Caves of Elephanta, and on our return we found a snake charmer and a juggler on board who amused us with their tricks, one of which, common to all jugglers here, is very wonderful. Into a pot containing a little earth he puts a mango seed, and then covers the pot with a cotton cloth; on our return we found a snake charmer and a juggler on board who amused us with their tricks, one of which, common to all jugglers here, is very wonderful. 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NOTICE.

A four-page Supplement is published with this day's number of the MESSENGER, and will be delivered gratis with each copy of the paper. It contains our American news and an interesting variety of literary extracts.

Great Britain.

LONDON, FEBRUARY 15—16, 1882.

MR. GLADSTONE'S FOREIGN POLICY.

The Report on the Address was on Wednesday made the occasion for a desultory review of the conduct of Foreign Policy. What the European Concert was every one knows. The European Concert was to secure freedom for oppressed populations and restrain the jealousies of rival Powers in the East. The splendid example of moderation we had set in Afghanistan was to permit free play to the more healthy influences which surround the Czar, and the bugbear of Russian aggression in Asia was to disappear for a generation at least. This was the promise. What is the fulfilment? What do "the relations of cordial harmony" in which the Queen's Speech, her Majesty's remains with all Foreign Powers, really mean? Greece has received a good slice of the territory which the Powers, or some of them, encouraged her to claim, and our Government naturally makes the most of this partial success. But the effort has left Greece impoverished and demoralised. The King was never so unpopular; the Government never so discredited. The European Concert, too, has done nothing to prevent a rising in Herzegovina against the Austrian occupation, nor has it disarmed the Pan-Slavic agitation in Russia, which, if it did not contrive the insurgents, encourages, aids, and directs the insurgents. It certainly has not given peace to Bulgaria, where, according to rumour, the coup d'état, which transferred power from the people to the Prince, may any day be followed by another coup d'état re-transferring power from the Prince to the people who profess to represent the people. And certainly, by confession of the Government itself, the Concert does not justify itself in interfering for the persecuted Jews of Russia. Turkey, to be sure, in its weakness, not Russia in its strength, was meant to be the object on which the Concert of Europe was to act. But the promised reforms in the Ottoman Empire seem unconsciously slow in coming. For weeks and months we have been hearing at intervals that at last the increasing pressure put by our Ambassadors—or by all the Ambassadors—on the Sultan has elicited a definite promise of immediate reforms in Armenia. But some of the Commission nominated to inquire how the wicked officials who are recalled remain at their posts, the reform edicts where it began—in the Bureau at Stamboul. Meanwhile Kurdish raids and Armenian discontent, and the exactions of the local officials, threaten to give Russia fresh pretexts for intervention in the coveted Province. As to Egypt, just the one place where no Englishman would wish to see the European Concert invoked, our attempt to manage things in unison with France alone, has ended so badly that Sir Charles Dilke is driven to the despairing hope that even here the delicate machinery of the European Concert might be put to value. The Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs indignantly denies that our Egyptian policy has been based on the personal influence of M. Gambetta, or that Lord Granville made any objection to the despatch of the famous Note, the significance of which he has since been at such pains to explain away. These are interesting denials, no doubt, but they do not improve the situation. It is in Asia, however, that events have unfolded most conspicuously the forecasts of a too-confiding Government. No attempt is made to ignore or ridicule the facts connected with the Russian advance. Whether the earlier Ministerial announcements were such as the country had a right to expect from a Government which is nothing if not candid, is a matter which, no doubt, will be fully discussed by-and-by. It is enough to note that as to part of the new frontier claimed by Russia, negotiations are now admitted to be on foot. Sir Charles Dilke, indeed, tells us that, after all, the farthest point of the new Russian frontier is one hundred and fifty miles from Samarkand. But this piece of news, which day passes reassures, would two years ago have been called the dream of an unscrupulous alarmist.—*Standard.*

THE MONETARY DILEMMA OF THE UNITED STATES.

The rapidity with which the New York exchange on London turns in favour of England when the American exports of produce fall off is the most striking proof, if not of the comparative unprofitableness of American foreign trade, at all events of the heavy indebtedness of America abroad. This indebtedness is only temporarily modified by the changes in the holding of American stocks, because in its largest and most exacting form it represents the permanent disadvantages under which the foreign trade of the States labours. The profit of that trade when it is at its best is greater to the foreigner than to the native, who indeed makes money only in exceptional seasons. Hence, the condition of United States business is so to say permanently unstable. It cannot stand the least adversity, and every forward movement is followed by a tumble back into the depths as surely as night follows day. It is some months now since we ventured to point out that a recoil in American prosperity was impending. At that time it was still the fashion for Americans to gloat over the immense stores of gold that their country was accumulating. All and sundry were apparently quite oblivious of the fact, patent to most outside observers, that this gold was in some measure a curse to the country. It was promoting inflation in all directions. By its means powerful "rings" were enabled to play havoc with the trade of the country, exportation was checked in the leading staples out of which the Americans make their profits, and at the same time imports of manufactures were stimulated by the high prices ruling. Within the States

financial schemes, railroad extension combinations, and "grabs" of all kinds became the order of the day, and the purpose of most of the financial talk was, "We have an unlimited command of the wealth of the Old World, represented by its gold; therefore we can do anything." To people in this frame of mind, it is not surprising that the gold import could only be a temporary accident in the trade of the United States was something most offensive, and was resented accordingly. In vain were they told that the ordinary course of United States trade and its subjection to the trade of freer and more solidly prosperous nations made an export and not an import of gold the rule. The suggestion was treated as an insult to the intelligence of the great American people, who were far too wide-awake to be taken in by the self-interested arguments of any envious dweller in an effete country like England. They scorned to believe it possible that within a few months the tide might turn and the gold flow away as fast as it had come. They would not believe that their "rings" and "corners," that their redundancy of coin and circulating media, with their resulting general inflation of prices, would clog up the channels of business and enable other nations to beat America in the competition. America commanded the markets of the world, and could compel them to pay what it pleased. It would seem, however, that the presumptuous foreigner was right after all. Business has taken a turn very much for the worse in the States, and gold has begun to flow back again to the places from whence it came, and, although the flow has only just begun, and may not at present go far, perturbation is visible in all important United States business centres. No wonder. All American enterprise for the past two years has been based upon the belief that such a return was impossible. The breakdown of speculation must therefore follow as a matter of course when the belief is found to be a delusion. One of the earliest consequences of the French crisis was the shipment of gold from New York to London; but gold must soon have come, crisis or no crisis, for the simple reason that the United States had debts to pay here which could be met by no other means. Comparing the trade movements of the country, we find that the excess of exports over imports was \$32,000,000 for the second half of 1880; it was only \$13,000,000 for the second half of 1881; and that is not all. Very large amounts of American securities have been bought in London and taken home on the faith of a great impending rise in the stock markets. These purchases have also to be paid for; and the margin of trade is not sufficient to meet these payments, to pay the English and other foreign shipowners for carrying the exports and imports, and to pay the heavy sums always due to the Government for interest on money invested in the Union. A moderate estimate places all this indebtedness at \$20,000,000 per annum. It is probably a good deal more, at present we should say certainly more. Gold would, therefore, have come to us soon in some amounts whatever had happened, but its coming might have been postponed. Stocks and shares might have been resold to us, and produce "corners" would have been broken in time to check the outflow. The "crisis," however, hurried matters forward, and, within a few days, the United States within the category of the countries struggling either to obtain or to keep possession of gold. It is a position which brings the United States face to face with what may prove a very trying period in its financial history. In less than three weeks' time the reserve of the New York Associated Banks fell from an excess of \$1,800,000 over the legal minimum to an excess of only \$800,000. This effect has been produced by exports of gold which, up to the date of the last return of the banks, had not much exceeded \$1,000,000. And at once the produce markets gave way, speculators in grain and cotton became organized, and the stock markets tottered. But the collapses in produce are regarded as hopeful features. "Produce will now be shipped abroad in larger quantities," we are assured, and then the exports of gold will stop at once. We have not the least doubt that every effort will be made to produce this result, and we do not anticipate a large export of gold just yet. But may not the collapse of the produce market itself shake credit? While the speculators in the States have been "forestalling and regrating" their crops in belief that their short harvest enabled them to put bread-crums all over the world at their mercy, our wants have been fully supplied elsewhere, and may continue to be so. This, however, is not a point that can now be adequately discussed. It is sufficient for our present purposes to insist upon the fact that the money markets of the States have entered the circle of financial disturbance. Struggle as they may, they are not likely to escape from that circle again, until they have made, in one way or another, heavy sacrifices. If they stop the export of gold, it must be at the cost of heavy sacrifices in stocks and shares and in produce. These must put a strain upon private credit. If, on the other hand, they let gold go, their manufacturing industries and railroad building must suffer rude rebuffs. Wary walking, indeed, will be required to prevent credit in the States from being disturbed in both directions.—*Pall Mall Gazette.*

THE CLOTURE.

The Standard says:—In view of the Prime Minister's First Resolution on the Procedure of the House of Commons, the following extract from his article in the Nineteenth Century of August, 1879, will be read with interest. The brackets are our own:—
"The public has lately heard much on the subject of obstruction in the House of Commons. It is a subject of extreme interest. The question raised by the mention of it is not so easily to be disposed of as is commonly imagined. There can hardly be a greater outrage than to prolong debate for the purpose of discrediting a Government in the transaction of the public business, or of disparaging the dignity of Parliament. [But a prolong debate even by persistent reiteration on legislative measures is not necessarily an outrage, an offence, or even an indiscretion. For, in some cases, it is only by the use of this instrument that a small minority with strong views can draw adequate attention to those views.] Adequate attention means attention proportioned to their real value, or to the public impressions connected with them, and the inconveniences which may

follow from their being disregarded. [There are abundant instances in which obstruction of this kind has led to the removal of pernicious or objectionable matter from legislative measures, and thus to the avoidance of great public evils.] In other cases obstruction has been freely and largely practised, even by a great party with no other apparent effect than that of deranging business and thus [damaging the Administration of the day, whose credit is always involved in its official despatch.] I refer especially, as will at once be understood, to the case of the Home Rule Bill. [But without doubt such a party would, if challenged, indignantly assert its title to insist and persist according to its sense of the public interests involved, and would defy the accuser to the point of its duty as defined.] Now, [if a great party may obstruct, it is hazardous to award a narrower discretion to a small one; for it is precisely in the class of cases where the party is small, and the conviction strong, that the best instance of warrantable obstruction might be found.] Where the party is large, it has ample means of procuring for its views a sufficient consideration; inasmuch as large it could not be, unless those views had already met with very general attention, and as it is to supply a lack of attention that persistent debate may most equitably be used. The upshot of the whole matter seems to be that it is not wise to make formal charges of obstruction, unless there are the means of effectually dealing with the offence; and that the offence hardly can be so dealt with in cases where the subject in debate is wide, and of real public moment; still less in a case where it is one on which the public has lively susceptibilities marshalled on the side of the obstructor; least of all where he can show that by his tenacity he has been enabled to modify the action of the Government, and the provisions of the law. [When we apply these tests to the case commonly known as that of the few Irish members, in connection with the flogging clauses of the Army Bill, the keenest advocate of penal measures against them may perhaps be led to pause. The House of Commons had already met with very general attention, and as it is to supply a lack of attention that persistent debate may most equitably be used. 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Great Britain

LONDON, FEBRUARY 21-22, 1882.

MR. BRADLAUGH AND THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The majority of the House were completely taken by surprise, on Tuesday, at the open violation of the authority of the House and of the Speaker by Mr. Bradlaugh. Lord Randolph Churchill was the first to submit a rather carefully-worded motion for a new writ, on the ground that Mr. Bradlaugh had vacated his seat by sitting without previously taking the oath. The Attorney-General pointed out the legal difficulties involved. It was not certain that Mr. Bradlaugh's conduct was not sufficient to satisfy the statute. The statute, which was directed against members who sat "during a debate" without previously taking the oath. There was no question before the House at the time, and consequently it might be argued that Mr. Bradlaugh had not rendered himself liable to the penalties of the statute. Mr. Gladstone added his advice in favour of proceeding with deliberation. Dr. Lyons eventually gave notice of his intention to move "that Mr. Bradlaugh having been guilty of a profanation, he is declared to be incapable of sitting in Parliament, and that he be discharged from further attendance." This motion, equivalent to a proposal of expulsion, was favourably received, and the debate having been adjourned, will possibly be agreed to by the House. In the meanwhile, it may be well to point out what are the issues raised by this scandalous piece of Parliamentary indecorum. First, is Mr. Bradlaugh's informal repetition of the words of the oath a taking of the oath? Secondly, if it is not, has Mr. Bradlaugh vacated his seat and rendered himself liable to pecuniary penalties? Thirdly, is the attempt to take the oath, such as to afford to the House as will warrant punishment? Upon the last question there can be little doubt that Mr. Bradlaugh deserves and Parliament is entitled to inflict punishment of some sort. Mr. Bradlaugh is refused permission to take the oath, and in the face and in defiance of the whole House he advances to the table and goes through the form which the House had declared in its lips would be a farce. Whether it would be most expedient to visit Mr. Bradlaugh's conduct with expulsion, or to select some chastisement less congenial to Mr. Bradlaugh himself, will be a matter for the consideration of the House. Most persons will be disposed to agree that Mr. Bradlaugh's action will have damaged him immensely in the opinion even of his friends and, as he may find, of the electors of his constituency. But the worst of it is that Mr. Bradlaugh's detriment is achieved at the expense of the dignity of the House. We would ask, further, what guarantee there is against the repetition of these scenes and against the revival of the difficulties which led to them. Mr. Bradlaugh may be expelled, and he may fail to secure re-election for Northampton. But there is nothing to prevent another constituency electing Mr. Bradlaugh, or, failing him, an analogue of Mr. Bradlaugh. There is no prospect of rest, in fact, from these interminable scenes of confusion and indecorum unless a bill should be passed to obviate their recurrence. In jostling with Mr. Bradlaugh, the House gets the worst of it. Why allow a state of things to continue in which it is possible to jostle with Mr. Bradlaugh or another of his opinions? Times.

The Standard says:—Mr. Bradlaugh has again, under circumstances of aggravated novelty, taken the law into his own hands. It will be for the House to meet this outrage by a becoming exhibition of courage and spirit, and to definitively reject from its body a person who shows himself so little capable of complying with the recognised rules of English public life. Mr. Bradlaugh on Tuesday filled the cup of his offences against Parliamentary decorum and national sentiment to overflowing. The contemptible dodge—there is no other word for it—by which he attempted to take his seat is infinitely more discreditable than the display of physical strength to which he resorted last session. He risked nothing; yesterday he risked nothing. He took an insolent and scandalous advantage of the tolerance accorded to him by the House, and in virtue of which he occupies a seat on the cross benches below the bar. The step required nothing more than wanton effrontery. It was unnecessary that even the coarsest of interdicts. By attorneys would scorn, Mr. Bradlaugh made a show of taking the Oath. He was not prohibited from doing so, because he acted with a suddenness which surprised the House, and in a manner which, when they read of the incident of Tuesday, will outrage the feelings of all sections of the public. The general verdict, we are convinced, will be that, whatever claim to consideration Mr. Bradlaugh may have had, he has irrevocably forfeited. The English people in the case even of the meanest men, like to see fair play, and have no objection to a stand-up fight. But then they expect that the play shall be fair all round, and they resent indignantly such pitiful trickery as that exhibited by Mr. Bradlaugh on Tuesday. But while there can be no doubt that the House of Commons would receive the sanction of public opinion if it were to proceed sum-

marily to expel Mr. Bradlaugh, the position which he legally occupies, after the monstrous travesty of Tuesday, is by no means clear. That he took the oath, in one sense, is as certain as the manner in which he took it was not in accordance with the formalities of the House, which require that the oath shall be "solemnly and publicly made and subscribed." The Attorney-General declined to express an opinion "whether what the member for Northampton had done had been a taking of the oath within the meaning of the Statute." "The House," he continued, "had prescribed no manner in which it should be taken, except that it should be taken at the table. Whether all the conditions as to the taking of the oath had been fulfilled, in face of the resolution that Mr. Bradlaugh should not take it," Sir Henry James refused to say. The occasion of these remarks was a motion of Lord Randolph Churchill, declaring that a vacancy had occurred in the borough of Northampton, and charging Mr. Bradlaugh with having "since his election sat in the House of Commons without having taken or subscribed the Oath, according to law." This resolution was, of course, the point to one for Mr. Bradlaugh's expulsion, and the House of Commons was well advised in adjourning the debate.

The Daily News observes:—Mr. Bradlaugh has of course put himself in a false position by his direct disobedience to a resolution of the House. He has put into the hands of his opponents a strong weapon. The House might proceed to expel him on the ground of this disobedience. On the other hand it is possible that he may be found to have locally complied with the obligation of the statute by taking the oath by surprise in the face of the whole House. Mr. Labouchere appealed for delay in order that the legal point might be tried; but Mr. Gladstone pointed out with great force, as the Attorney-General had already intimated, that the question raised by the incident was a question of the House's authority, and must be decided by the House, and must not be confounded with Mr. Bradlaugh's legal position. As to the insult, it seems to us that the House has on former occasions received greater provocation from Mr. Bradlaugh than that which he offered on Tuesday. His manner at least was respectful, and there was a novel accent of timidity instead of defiance in his voice. Mr. Gladstone, on behalf of the Government, has promised to consider what course can be taken in the entirely novel circumstances in which the House is placed; but they have a right to ask that Sir Stafford Northcote and his friends, who have led the House into this vexatious difficulty, should themselves indicate some means of possible extrication from it.

THE RUSSO-GERMAN CRISIS.

The Berlin correspondent of the Standard telegraphed on Tuesday night:—The excitement produced throughout Germany by General Skobelev's anti-German speeches continues unabated. If there was one thing which could have allayed the national indignation and alarm, it was a prompt, candid, and unmistakable disavowal of Skobelev's insults by the German Emperor. If, moreover, there was one thing which, in German official and non-official circles, was this morning regarded as certain, it was that in the course of the day we should hear that such a full, plain, and prompt repudiation had actually been made by the Emperor. Such being the universal feeling here, it is difficult to exaggerate the profound dismay and indignation produced by the news received this afternoon from St. Petersburg respecting the lukewarm and half-hearted explanation furnished by the Russian official papers. The hope that the Czar would, without delay, administer a pointed rebuke to the offender, and thus soothe the wounded susceptibilities of the German nation, was egregiously disappointed. And this disappointment, in its effects, is almost equivalent to the infliction of another actual insult. Moreover, everything we hear only contributes to aggravate the popular excitement, and widen the breach which has been so wantonly made between the two by far most powerful and influential Empires of the European Continent. One day we learn that a Russian Consul in one of the Balkan Principalities has, in anything, out-Heroded Herod, and hurled against Germany and Germany's allies a gross and unprovoked insult. The next day we learn that the Russian General in the Russian service, another day we hear of Russian statesmen intriguing with parties in Hungary and endeavouring to weaken Austria by seducing them from their allegiance to her, and thus to bring about the disintegration of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Such conduct, such indirect blows at Germany, through her ally, naturally only tend to deepen the prevailing bitterness.

EGYPT AND THE POWERS.

The following document was signed by the Controllers-General, MM. de Bignieres and Colvin, at Cairo, on the 6th inst.:—When the decrees regulating the powers of the Controllers were promulgated, the power belonged to the Khedive, and by delegation to his Ministers. If the Controllers-General were confined to the right of giving advice it was to be presumed that their advice would receive just appreciation. This explanation has been retained, and the financial situation of the country, which was so grave two years ago, is now as prosperous. But since then the power has shifted. It now belongs to the Chamber of Delegates, and to several military chiefs whose influence is the Khedive and Ministers freely appointed in the institutions of the country has been effected gradually. The authority of the Khedive and his Ministers, shaken by the military riot of February 1, 1880, has been getting daily weaker. Things have come to such a pass that the Delegates, who are elected under the reign of the ex-Khedive, gave many proofs of servility, adhering to the most iniquitous and fatal financial measures, does not hesitate now to demand rights incompatible with the social condition of the country. It has gone the length of obliging the Khedive to change the Ministry which enjoyed his confidence, and under the pressure of several officers, of forcing on him as Premier the Minister of War. The Khedive's power is no longer what it was. In these new conditions it is a matter whether the intention is affirmed or not of not interfering with the powers of the Controllers. By the very force of things they become inefficient when confronted not with the Khedive and Ministers freely appointed by him, but with a Chamber and an army. The Khedive and the Ministers he appointed could not assume towards public opinion and foreign Governments the responsibility of measures to which the Controllers-General object. The right to the right to publish. This was the sole sanction of our powers. It has thus far sufficed; but it becomes perfectly illusory confronted with the Ministers of the Chamber and the army, who will only be accessible to the influence of the officers and delegates from whom they derive their powers. In fact, it has come to this already, for the Ministry which has just been formed is, about, notwithstanding the formal opposition of the Controllers-General, to give the Chamber the right of voting the Budget. It must, moreover, not be forgotten that Sheriff Pasha's ministry only fell because it would not disregard the opposition offered by the English and French Governments to the claim put forward by the Chamber to vote the Budget. To accept accomplished facts is, therefore, to accept the most serious outrage which has been committed against the influence of England and France, and to annihilate the influence of the Controllers, who have no authority but that which they derive from their Governments. It would be a profound illusion to herein to see the prelude of a series of measures which will not leave standing any of the reforms introduced in the course of late years. The days may already be foreseen when the financial disorders which were remedied by the Commission of Inquiry and Commission of Liquidation will reappear."

COURT AND FASHIONABLE NEWS.

WINDSOR CASTLE, TUESDAY.

The Queen drove out yesterday afternoon, attended by the Dowager Duchess of Exburghe and the Hon. Frances Drummond, and Princess Beatrice walked out attended by Mile. Noelle. Major-General Sir Evelyn Wood, K.C.B., arrived at the Castle yesterday afternoon, and was introduced to her Majesty's household by Lord Herbert of Lea. He was preceded by Sir Albert Woods, Garter King of Arms, bearing the insignia of Knight Grand Cross of the Order of St. Michael and St. George, and was invested by the Queen with the insignia of a Knight Grand Cross of the Order. The Queen walked out with her Majesty during the ceremony. Major-General Sir Evelyn Wood, G.C.M.G., and Lieutenant-General the Right Hon. Sir H. Ponsonby, K.C.B., were present, and were included in her Majesty's dinner party. The Queen walked out this morning, attended by the Hon. Horatia Stopford, Viscount Torrington and Captain Edwards, R.E., have succeeded Lord Tauris and Colonel the Hon. A. Liddell as Lord and Groon in Waiting.

The Prince of Wales, attended by the Hon. H. Tyrwhitt Wilson, was present at the christening, in St. James's Palace on Tuesday, of the eldest son of the Earl and Countess of Rosebery, and stood sponsor to him. His Royal Highness dined with the Earl of Rosebery at Lansdowne House on Tuesday evening. The Empress Eugénie visited the Prince and Princess of Wales on Tuesday.

The Prince of Wales honoured the Earl of Rosebery by his company at dinner on Tuesday at Lansdowne House, Berkeley-square. There were present, the Duke of Devonshire, the Duke of Cleveland, the Marquis of Hartington, M.P., Earl Granville, K.G., Earl Spencer, K.G., the Earl of Kimberley, Earl Sydney, Lord Cairns, Lord Esher, the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone, M.P., the Right Hon. Sir W. V. Harcourt, M.P., Colonel the Hon. E. Primrose, Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild, Mr. Christopher Sykes, M.P., Mr. Alfred de Rothschild, Mr. W. H. Russell, the Rev. W. E. Adams, Mr. Knollys, Mr. F. Knollys, Mr. Cockerell, Mr. Calcraft, and the Hon. H. Tyrwhitt Wilson (in waiting on the Prince of Wales).

The Duke and Duchess of Bedford entertained the Princess Mary Adelaide (Duchess of Teck) and the Duke of Devonshire at dinner at their residence in Eaton-square on Tuesday evening, when there were present to meet the distinguished guests the Duke and Duchess of Abercorn and Lady Georgina Hamilton, the Earl and Countess of Sefton, the Countess Spencer, the Earl of Ely, the Earl of Dalhousie, Lord Cremorne, Colonel Hon. F. Bridgeman, Colonel Digby, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Baring, and Mr. Charteris. Later they received a small and early party. The Earl and Countess of Malmesbury have left for France, the Earl's lordship is under treatment for acute gout.

Bishop Clifton, the Archbishop of London and Chaplain-General of the Forces, is at present unable to fulfil his duties as canon in residence at St. Paul's owing to indisposition. The Bishop of Salisbury, who is Canon of the diocese of Colombo, Ceylon, has been a frequent preacher in London, and taken most of the confirmations for the bishop. This, combined with his duties of chaplain-general, has resulted in a strain upon his constitution.

Lord and Lady Lamington and the Hon. Violet Cochrane Bailie have arrived at 26, Wilton-crescent, from Belvoir Castle.

Lord Norton continues confined to his room with rheumatism. He is under the care of Dr. Erichsen and Dr. Layton. Lady Prescott died on Monday at her residence in Grosvenor-street. The deceased lady was the youngest daughter of Mr. Henry Hillier, and married the late Sir George William Prescott, Bart. His second wife, who died in 1850, was a widow in April, 1850, and was mother of the present baronet, Sir George Rendlesham Prescott.

The Hon. Robert and Mrs. Milnes have arrived at Somerset House, Park-lane. The Hon. Robert, M.P., and Mrs. Milnes, returned to Bolton-row on Tuesday from Torquay.

POLITICAL AND SOCIAL ITEMS.

(FROM THE "DAILY NEWS.")

There is a general feeling of resentment in the House of Commons against the course taken by Mr. Bradlaugh on Tuesday night. At the same time there is a widespread impression that it will be difficult to challenge his legal position as a duly-sworn member. There is nothing in any Statute relating to the Parliamentary Oath that directs that a member who has taken the Oath at the table or at any other official of the House should be liable to punishment. The document which Mr. Bradlaugh signed and left upon the table of the House of Commons last night turned out to be a copy of the Parliamentary Oath. The manuscript was in the possession of Mr. Bradlaugh.

A memorial addressed to the Prime Minister, and promoted by the Committee for the Defence of Westminster Abbey, has been circulated for signature by members of Parliament. The memorialists pray for the appointment of a Royal Commission to consider and report upon the question of the encroachment upon Westminster Abbey by Westminster school.

The festival dinner of the United Kingdom Railway Officers and Servants' Association will be held on the 8th prox., the Marquis of Salisbury in the chair.

We learn that Colonel Gordon (better known as Gordon Pasha) has been appointed to the command of the troops in the Mauritius, in succession to General Murray, who left for England by the last mail. Colonel Gordon intends to leave the colony in April, when he expects to get his promotion as major-general. It appears that he is not returning to England, but intends to take up his residence at Beyrout.

(FROM THE "STANDARD.")

The negotiations with France for a Tariff Treaty have now finally broken down, and all that is under discussion is the desirability of concluding a Treaty conceding the most favoured nation treatment.

The Select Committee of the House of Lords on the Irish Land Act will be nominated on Friday, and will probably meet for the first time on Monday. The Duke of Somerset has been asked to act as Chairman of the Committee. Lord Salisbury, Lord Cairns, and Lord Dunsen will probably sit upon it.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—TUESDAY.

The Lord Chancellor took his seat on the woolsack at five o'clock.

THE CHANNEL TUNNEL.

Lord Bury, for Lord Donoughmore, asked whether the evidence as to the proposed Channel Tunnel taken by the Select Committee would be laid before Parliament, and whether the new committee on the subject would sit with closed doors. He suggested that, as one of the two companies which proposed to make a tunnel under the Channel was under the immediate presidency of a prominent official of her Majesty's Government, the new committee ought to be a strong and impartial one.

Lord Stanley of Alderley was of opinion that the Government should give their early attention to this matter.

Lord Bradbourn asked what position we should hold in the eyes of France if, having given our assent to the making of the tunnel, we now set ourselves against it when its feasibility was proved.

The Marquis of Bath submitted that the observations of Lord Bradbourn were out of order, and that it was not becoming in that noble lord, who was a director of a company promoting one of the tunnel schemes, to make any statement of his own as to the feasibility of the making of a tunnel, seeing that the question at issue was one which ought to be decided as a matter of fact.

Lord Dunsen asked whether naval and military officers would be on the new committee.

Lord Granville stated that the report of the Departmental Committee would be presented to Parliament. The inquiry intrusted to the new committee was of a professional and scientific nature, and had reference to the question of the tunnel on the English side and the precautions which would be necessary to prevent the tunnel being made use of by an enemy in case of war. When the Government had received the report of this committee they would consider what advice to be given to the House as to the course which, in their opinion, should be adopted with respect to the two Bills relating to the Tunnel scheme which were now awaiting the decision of Parliament.

The Augmentation of Benefices Act Amendment Bill was read a second time.

Their Lordships adjourned at 25 minutes to 6 o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—TUESDAY.

The Speaker took the chair at four o'clock.

THE LORDS AND THE IRISH LAND ACT.

Sir S. Northcote gave notice that he will oppose Mr. Gladstone's vote of censure on the House of Lords.

MR. BRADLAUGH.

After the questions Mr. Labouchere moved the issue of a new writ for Northampton in the room of Mr. Bradlaugh, who by the House of Commons had been declared to be incapable of sitting in Parliament. The motion was passed by the House after a second reading, and a third reading, and the practical result of those resolutions, he insisted, was to disqualify Mr. Bradlaugh from taking his seat, and all the precedents which he examined seriatim—established that when a member of the House was disqualified by a new writ, he vacated the seat and issued a new writ.

Lord R. Churchill, holding that the Resolution as it stood implied that the House had treated Mr. Bradlaugh arbitrarily, proposed to substitute words at the close of it declaring that Mr. Bradlaugh was "disqualified by law," which he contended truly represented the state of the case.

The Attorney-General opposed both motion and amendment, holding that the effect of such a resolution would be to declare Mr. Bradlaugh a member of the House, for which no case had been made. The precedents were for the most part inapplicable, except that of Baron Rothschild, who he showed established that a seat could not be declared vacant unless the member had sat and voted without taking the oath. As to Lord R. Churchill's amendment of Mr. Bradlaugh was disqualified he ought not to have been elected, but that was a matter for an election petition and not for the House.

Sir H. Giffard, while not agreeing altogether with the Attorney-General's statement, asked whether this motion was made with Mr. Bradlaugh's consent, to which Mr. Labouchere replied that it was made at his request.

Sir J. Mowbray maintained that the seat was not vacant, and Mr. Rylands, who was of the same opinion, urged the Government to prevent further waste of time by undertaking to legislate. Colonel Makins, Mr. S. E. St. John, Mr. Simon, Mr. Newdegate, and Mr. O'Donnell made some observations, and Sir S. Northcote asked what could be the meaning of this strange and suspicious move. If the electors of Northampton desired the seat to be vacated, why had not the Government applied for a writ Chiltern Hundreds? As the matter stood he saw no reason for issuing the writ.

The Speaker then proceeded to put the question. The final clause of Mr. Labouchere's motion required the reason for issuing the writ to be first struck out, and after this the House negatived the words which Mr. R. Churchill proposed to put in their place, so that the motion finally stood for the issue of a new writ "in the room of Mr. Bradlaugh, Esq., who—and in this curtailed form it was negatived by 307 to 18.

Mr. BRADLAUGH, who had been sitting under the gallery during the debate, at the close of the division took up a position at the Bar, and when the numbers had been declared walked up to the table. Without waiting for the Clerk to meet him, he took a small book from his pocket (presumably New Testament), and reciting the form of oath in an audible voice, including the words "So help me God," kissed it in the usual manner. Then he unfolded a paper which he carried with him, wrote something on it, and flung it across the table towards the Clerk. While this was going on there was a slight laugh and cries of "Order" from the Opposition side, and the Speaker, addressing the hon. member, reminded him to withdraw below the bar. To this Mr. Bradlaugh replied:—"I have now taken the oath according to law, and I shall take my seat in the House," and walking back to the Bar—leaving the book and the paper behind him—he took his seat within the House at the extreme end of the third bench below the gangway, in the seat which he formerly occupied.

The Speaker, again addressing him, admonished him that he had not obeyed his orders, which were to retire below the bar and remain there, and Mr. Bradlaugh replying, "Having taken my oath and seat according to law, I obey your directions," took his seat in his former place under the gallery.

At this point Lord R. Churchill rose, and declared that he was moving that the hon. member for Northampton, having taken the oath required by law, had vacated his seat in the same manner as if he were dead. The Attorney-General hoped that the House would proceed deliberately in a matter of this gravity and pointed out to the noble lord opposite that he had not correctly quoted the words of the statutes which required not merely that a member should take his seat, but that he should "sit in debate." Without expressing any opinion whether Mr. Bradlaugh had done as taking an oath within the meaning of the statute, it was obvious that a judicial question of that character, involving a penalty of £300 and the voiding of the seat, should not be decided offhand. It was also open to argument whether he had sat "during debate."

Mr. LABOUCHERE having consulted with Mr. Bradlaugh under the gallery, said his colleague was willing to have the question whether he had taken the oath submitted to judicial decision without any delay, and would undertake not to raise the point about "sitting during debate." He would also undertake not to sit and vote in the interval.

Lord R. Churchill expressed his surprise at the hesitating tone of the Attorney-General, and insisted with much warmth and vigour that the House should take prompt action of its own to punish the wanton insult which had been offered to it.

Mr. Gladstone, deprecating unnecessary heat, pointed out that the points raised were not of language that the House should take any action, and moved the adjournment of the debate until Wednesday. He was strongly censured the outrage and insult offered to the House, agreed that an adjournment would be wise; and Dr. Lyons, who declared that Mr. Bradlaugh had broken his parole, gave notice of his intention to move that Mr. Bradlaugh be guilty of a profanation, and be incapable of sitting in Parliament, and that he be discharged from further attendance.

Sir S. Northcote, while concurring in the suggestion for adjournment, called on the Government to say whether they would be prepared to make some proposal for the punishment of the insult Mr. Bradlaugh had offered the House in defying its orders three times renewed. Mr. O'Donnell and Mr. Gladstone made some observations, and Mr. Gladstone in response to a further appeal from Sir R. Cross, said that the Government in the interval would carefully consider all the points arising out of the matter.

The debate was then adjourned until Wednesday, and Mr. Gladstone having moved the adjournment of the House until Wednesday at 2 o'clock, a division was taken with the result that it was carried by 181 to 36.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION.

Mr. O'Donnell, referring to a statement made on Thursday last by the Attorney-General that he was not a member of the Government of the Queen, denied that he had ever so spoken, and said that although he had described Mr. Gladstone's Government as entirely devoid of influence in Ireland, he was not a member of the Government, and he had never contended the administration of the right hon. gentleman with the permanent constitution of the Queen's Government. (Ministerial cries of "Order.") The Speaker: "The House is always indulgent to a member desirous of making a personal explanation, but it appears to me that the hon. member is going beyond the bounds of a personal explanation. (Hear, hear.)"

O'Donnell said he could have afforded to pass over the wholly baseless assertion of the Irish Attorney-General—(cries of "Order")—had it not been that at the present time honour, reputation, and liberty itself were at the mercy of the Government. (Renewed cries of "Order," and Home Rule cheers.)

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

Mr. E. CLARKE moved a resolution setting out the advantage of so altering the practice of the House that the consideration of the bills which are passed by the House should be continued until the next Session, and that the long-run with the House should be the well-grounded suspicion that Lord Palmerston was thwarted by the Sovereign and the Prince Consort in carrying out a national policy to which he was indebted for such of his unique position as a Minister. There could be few graver analogies than between Lord Palmerston and Mr. Gladstone; but there is a certain analogy, that ought not to be unmentioned, between the way in which each has been spoken of in his relations to the Throne. It is a slandering and dangerous thing to institute a competition between the head of the Cabinet, that owes its existence to the people's choice, and the wearer of the Crown. Mr. Gladstone's enemies are not doing him any real harm, but they may be injuring a monarchical principle in this country.—World.

PRINCE LEOPOLD'S MARRIAGE.

ARRIVAL OF THE PRINCESS HELEN.

For a second time Queenborough has been destined to be the place where the betrothed of a Prince of the Royal Family has first welcomed to England. About eighteen months ago the Duchess of Connaught landed here, amidst very loyal demonstrations; and on Tuesday Princess Helen of Waldeck-Pyrmont, the fiancée of Prince Leopold of Albany, first set foot on English soil at this Royal town. The Royal party arrived in Sheerness Harbour in the Queen's yacht Victoria and Albert, a few minutes after nine o'clock, and anchored near the old ship of Vice-Admiral Sir John Dudeney, Commander-in-Chief at the North. The flagstaff fired a Royal salute of 21 guns; two minutes later the Royal Artillery fired a salute from the batteries on the shore, and the band on board the Victoria played the National Anthem. Admiral Macdonald, accompanied by some of the leading officers of the port, went on board the yacht, and paid their respects to the Princess and Prince Leopold. Meanwhile, the preparations for the landing at Queenborough Pier were being completed, and, as soon as the tide permitted, a tug was despatched with the luggage belonging to the Royal party, which was quickly transferred by the servants and attendants, assisted by a number of blue-jackets to the train in waiting at the pier.

Afterwards another steam-tug brought the distinguished visitors to the pier, there being not sufficient depth of water to permit the Royal yacht getting up. The pier was tastefully decorated with flags by the railway staff. The platform was laid with red carpet, and the roofs were canopied with bunting. The gangway over which the distinguished visitors had to pass to reach the platform was similarly treated. It was, in fact, twenty minutes past ten a Royal salute was fired. Princess Helen was accompanied by the Princess and Prince Leopold, Prince von Meuse, Prince Leopold was attended by the Hon. Alexander Duff and Mr. Royle. Their Royal Highnesses were received by the Marchioness of Ely, representing the Queen, and General Du Plat, with whom they shook hands warmly. Addressed by Major Dickson, M.P., one of the directors of the London, Chatham, and Dover Railway Company; Mr. Mortimer Harrie, the General Manager; and Captain Godbold, the Continental Manager. The train started punctually at half-past ten for Windsor. As the train started, the large avenue of trees flanking the railway, which were planted by the late Queen, gave three hearty cheers, to which their Royal Highnesses, standing up in the carriage, bowed their acknowledgments. The Princess Helen won golden opinions from the people of Queenborough by her affable demeanour. The train traversed by way of the middle junction, without touching Sheerness, and all along the banks of the railway people had congregated to catch a glimpse of the Princess, who repeated her gracious acknowledgments of the compliments paid. The Princess is to be the guest

of the Queen and Mr. Gladstone. Her Majesty is shortly about to leave England for the South of France in search of change and rest. Some of the newspapers have done more than hint that for the necessity of this step the Prime Minister is responsible. The condition of Ireland has so told upon the Queen that it has undermined her health. The anarchy, confiscation, rebellion, outrages on human beings and beasts of the field, that prevail on the other side of St. George's Channel, are all caused by the Irish policy of the Liberal Government, followed by the Land Act, and culminating in the Premier's adoption of the Home Rule programme. Mr. Gladstone is therefore represented not only as a traitor to the Constitution, but as the personal enemy of the Sovereign. The Queen is at the head of the patriotic party of the realm, and is inspired with Lord Beaconsfield's devotion to the interests of Great Britain and the unity of the Empire. Englishmen, it is not dimly hinted, must make their choice between her Majesty and the Chief of what, with bitter irony, is called her Majesty's Government. There is

no possibility of compromise. Either Mr. Gladstone must be overthrown, or the Sovereign's affection to her subjects must be ruthlessly violated. Mr. Gladstone, it is further said, is not only the bitter opponent of her Majesty, but takes a wicked pleasure in treating her with conspicuous contumely. In proof of this, we are hidden to look at what occurred on Thursday last. The Prime Minister, as has been said, refused to obey the Royal summons to Buckingham Palace, alleging, by way of excuse, that he was unwell. He was well enough, however, to take his place in the House of Commons the same evening, and to deliver a speech calculated to gratify those of Queen Victoria's enemies who would welcome the repeal of the Union. Can there be any reasonable doubt that the Prime Minister deliberately slighted his Sovereign, and that his conduct ought to be reprobated by every loyal Briton?

These tactics, on the part of the Conservatives, are less sagacious than even Conservative tactics usually are. It is notorious that the Prime Minister is not an acceptable personage at Court. The Duke of Wellington viewed with some contempt the prospect of having to deal with a Queen. "I," he said, "have no small talk, and Peel has no manners." Mr. Gladstone has both manners and small talk when he chooses to be agreeable; but his real reserves, it is complained, these gifts and graces for the private circles in which he is supreme. He is grovel, we are told, before dukes and duchesses; but he has scarcely a civil word to say to his Sovereign. Now it may be that the Prime Minister is much less deferential in the presence of, and in all his dealings with, Royalty than was his predecessor. Lord Beaconsfield was a born courtier. Mr. Gladstone is nothing of the kind. He is a savagely energetic and aggressively industrious person. He has an insatiable appetite for work, and he is apt to be imperious, and to insist upon doing things in his own way. He resents interference of any kind, whether it proceeds from the Sovereign or from the people; and he may acquiesce with an ill-grace in the constant communications with the business and the usage of the State involve Downing-street and Windsor, Balmoral, or Osborne. The Queen, it is said, would be lamentably lacking in a sense of what is due to herself, and her constitutional position if she were calmly to submit to such treatment. There is, so the public are assured, no precedent for similar behaviour on the part of a Prime Minister; therefore, it is plain that Mr. Gladstone has resolved upon upsetting the Throne, as he has upset everything else.

Have persons forgotten that Lord Palmerston went a very great deal further in the direction of disregard of the Royal wishes and of the etiquette of State than Mr. Gladstone has ever done? Either, he unconsciously argued in several of his letters to his brother, he was or was not fitted to conduct the affairs of the nation. If he was not, he preferred to do so in his own way; if he was not, let the English people look to it. Mr. Gladstone has never been upon a step which for Ministerial indiscretion surpassed that of the French Emperor after the coup-d'état. This was altogether unwarrantable and insolent; but it did not lead to the ruin of the long-run with the House should be the well-grounded suspicion that Lord Palmerston was thwarted by the Sovereign and the Prince Consort in carrying out a national policy to which he was indebted for such of his unique position as a Minister. There could be few graver analogies than between Lord Palmerston and Mr. Gladstone; but there is a certain analogy, that ought not to be unmentioned, between the way in which each has been spoken of in his relations to the Throne. It is a slandering and dangerous thing to institute a competition between the head of the Cabinet, that owes its existence to the people's choice, and the wearer of the Crown. Mr. Gladstone's enemies are not doing him any real harm, but they may be injuring a monarchical principle in this country.—World.

Mr. LABOUCHERE having consulted with Mr. Bradlaugh under the gallery, said his colleague was willing to have the question whether he had taken the oath submitted to judicial decision without any delay, and would undertake not to raise the point about "sitting during debate." He would also undertake not to sit and vote in the interval.

THE LONDON GAZETTE

Head Office:—PARIS, No. 224, RUE DE RIVOLI.

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PARIS, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1882.

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Great Britain.

LONDON, FEBRUARY 28—27, 1882.

THE LORDS AND THE COMMONS.

Lord Salisbury's emphatic declaration that Mr. Gladstone's motion must be regarded as a direct attack upon the constitutional position of the House of Lords, would of itself put almost insurmountable difficulty in the way of any satisfactory arrangement. On the one hand, it stirs up the bitterest feeling of party and of class among Lord Salisbury's own followers; on the other, it would make concession coming from the Ministerial side seem like an acknowledgment that such an attack had been intended and had to be abandoned. Friday was the first day when Lord Salisbury had an opportunity of showing what his leadership of the Conservative party was likely to be on any really important occasion; and he showed only too clearly how unfitted he is by temper and by turn of mind for such a place. Shakespeare has a Salisbury who is addressed as "Thou mad misleader of thy brain-sick son." We have a Salisbury now whom it would be hardly beyond the bounds of propriety or of fairness to call the mad misleader of an occasionally brain-sick party. On Friday the House of Commons, without the slightest derogation night, without the slightest dignity, with even from the position into which they had been thrust so suddenly a few evenings before. The Prime Minister and the Government had interposed with the whole force of their responsibility and authority, and a moment's cool consideration would have told the Peers that the country would expect them to give way. If they still believed in the necessity for the appointment of a Committee of landlords to inquire into the working of a Land Act that has only just begun to be worked, they could have delivered that and their souls be delivered that on the Government, and not on the House of Lords, would rest the blame of having prevented such a committee from being appointed. They could have withdrawn from the controversy with the expression of that famous hope that things might be none the worse that day twelve-month, which if events turned out one way would be a pious wish fulfilled, and if the other way a prophecy; but they have chosen their ground under Lord Salisbury's guidance, and we suppose they mean to hold it. They cannot be said to have been in any doubt as to the probable consequences of their unflinching determination. Not only has the Prime Minister announced on persevering, but it was that very announcement which, according to Lord Salisbury, induced them to persevere. Not only did they persist in spite of the Prime Minister's declaration that the course they threatened would be disastrous to the cause of order and good government in Ireland, but they made that very declaration another reason for their persistence. The English people would not have seen in the investigations of any amateur Commission of the House of Lords any serious menace to the stability of the Free Trade policy. But the Irish tenant-farmers will undoubtedly see in the appointment of a Committee of land-owning Peers to inquire into the working of the Land Act a very serious menace to the stability and the effective operation of that Act. Is it possible to suppose that such a step as the appointment of such a Committee will not drive many a tenant-farmer still inclined to loyalty and the cause of order to declare in his despair that, after all, Mr. Parnell was right, that the House of Lords are too strong for Mr. Gladstone's best intentions, and that the Land League is the only body to which the Irish occupier can look for protection? We cannot but have been unwilling to allow the Lords' Committee to be appointed without obtaining from the House of Commons an emphatic declaration which shall relieve him and the Government from all share in the responsibility for so ill-omened a piece of work. If the Prime Minister could have seen his way to arrive at the same result by a declaration on the part of the Government without the necessity for a formal resolution and a debate in the House of Commons, we should have been glad; and such a course would have been possible, and might have been adopted, but for the unhappy precipitancy of the House of Lords on Friday. If such arrangement, of which even now we are impossible the blame must rest altogether on the House of Lords. Unfortunately the consequences will not have to be borne by them. A wasted Session will not trouble the Peers in particular. The inevitable postponement of most important legislation will not affect them more than it affects other people; not nearly so much as it will affect many other people. We may as well look the whole business straight in the face and recognise its full menace. If the Opposition, including the Irish party, with whom they are in more or less cordial alliance, are in more or less powers of debate with should use their energy and perseverance anything like the energy and perseverance that are expected of them, the real business of the Session may be regarded as already doomed to postponement. The Conservatives have in any case no particular wish to help the Government in useful legislation—the Irish party are always ready to obstruct. Lord Salisbury has

given an incitement to both bands which they will not be slow to act upon. They can, if they choose, prolong the debate until the eve of the Easter Recess. Many of the Tory party are loud in their proclamation that they can do this, and that they will do it. If the House meets after Easter with the discussion of the new Rules for its business still before it, then all we can say is that it will be impossible for the Government to pass one single measure this Session of all those which were announced in the Speech from the Throne. What wonder if people should begin to ask themselves whether there is really benefit enough to be had from the existence of a House of Peers to compensate for the injuries which its capricious and thoughtless action may sometimes inflict?—Daily News.

REMOVALS OF A DISSOLUTION.

The Daily Telegraph of yesterday says:—In political circles last night a belief was prevalent that, owing to the action adopted by the House of Lords on Friday last in appointing a committee of inquiry into the operation of the Land Act, and the consequent difficulty of continuing the government of Ireland, Mr. Gladstone had determined to place his resignation in the hands of Her Majesty. Various conjectures are rife as to the immediate result of Mr. Gladstone's resignation, but in well-informed quarters it is believed that any attempt to form a new Liberal Ministry under Lord Hartington would fail, owing to the defection of the Radical section of the Cabinet. It is thought more probable that the crisis will be left to be settled by an appeal to the country, and that with this view Parliament will be dissolved at an early date.

ANGLO-FRENCH COMMERCIAL RELATIONS.

M. Tirard's Bill regulating the commercial relations between France and England has been well received thus far. The Committee to which it was referred on Thursday, after it had been promulgated in the Chamber of Deputies, has presented a favourable report upon it, and after some discussion and after an authoritative explanation of its terms, it has been passed by the Chamber without a division. No time is to be lost in making further progress with it. M. Tirard does not look upon it as a final settlement of the question which he has not given up the hope that the treaty negotiations may yet be renewed, and may be brought to a favourable conclusion. His Bill has been constructed to meet the emergency of the moment, to prevent, that is to say, the application of the general tariff to English goods on and after the 1st of March. The most favoured nation treatment which it affords to England carries with it a prolongation of the existing treaty until May 15. This was assumed by M. Rouvier, and after some doubt had been expressed by M. Peytral whether M. Rouvier's interpretation was correct, it was expressly confirmed by M. Tirard. The conventions, which have already been renewed with other nations, stipulate, in their case, for the maintenance until May 15 of the Anglo-French tariff of 1860. England, therefore, if she is to be as well treated as any other nation, will so long enjoy the existing tariff, not by virtue of a further prolongation of the treaty beyond March 1, but simply as a first instalment of the benefit to which the bill entitles her. But, although M. Tirard hopes for a treaty with England, he does not think that the business can, by any possibility, be concluded before May 15. If it could, the inference would be clear that the past negotiations had been mismanaged, and that M. Tirard is naturally unwilling to admit. Why the negotiations have failed or on what basis they are to be renewed, M. Tirard does not say. We accept M. Tirard's Bill as containing the best arrangement it was in his power to make. That he has considered French interests rather than English interests in constructing it can hardly be alleged as a fault in a French Minister. It is clear that the Bill is a good deal less generous than it appears to be. English goods, under whatever tariff they had been placed, would have found a ready market through Belgium or some other country with which a treaty had been concluded. The French seaport towns would have been the chief sufferers from the change. The protectionists would have gained little or no more than the Bill will secure for them. They would still have had to contend against the same rivals, with no other advantage than the somewhat more round-about, and therefore more costly, method of transport by which English goods must have been conveyed. We have no wish to insist upon such rights as those which the Committee's report on the bill admits in our favour. France, we repeat, is not overlooking the fact that England, by widely opening her own market to French imports, has some claim to be at least as well treated as other nations, which are less generous in this respect than she is. If England allows a free entry to French or to any other imports she does so entirely on her own account. It suits her to purchase French goods on cheap and favourable terms rather than to go without them or to make a more costly substitute for them at home. She seeks no return favours. If France prefers to pay a higher price than she need pay for the cotton and woollen goods she consumes and to have them of a worse quality, she has a full right of choice. We look forward with satisfaction to the prospect of M. Tirard holding out the renewal of the treaty negotiations. What need of a treaty which must necessarily be one-sided, and which France, therefore, can conclude on her own account at any moment she wishes for it?—Times.

A MOST-FAVOURABLE-NATION TREATY.

Confusion of ideas and consequent misapprehension appear with strange persistency and injurious iteration in the public conceptions of what is termed for convenience a most-favoured-nation treaty. It is now probable that a treaty of this kind will regulate our relations with France, and the questions that put to Sir Charles Dilke on Friday night show a distraction of mind on the subject that would be truly astonishing in a less distracted Assembly. The Paris correspondent of the Times can himself descend to the assertion that "it is difficult to see how England, after refusing terms better than a most-favoured-nation clause can now accept the latter." To be able to

apply such an argument to such a point there must be most lamentable confusion of ideas. We seek a commercial treaty with a country in order that the inhabitants of that country may purchase of us goods at less than exorbitant rates, and that we may not be excluded altogether by prohibitive rates. Such is the function of a commercial treaty. But we seek a most-favoured-nation clause for altogether other reasons. By its means we endeavour to appear in that foreign market on equal terms with other foreign purveyors. The two objects are perfectly distinct and different. We are wanting to sell our goods in a market town. On the one hand we say to the gate-keeper, Do not you charge so high an entrance-fee that we shall be forced to put so high a price on our goods that purchasers in the market will be less willing or even unable to buy. On the other hand we say, Do not charge us more than you charge other purveyors from the outside. The two matters remain totally distinct not only in degree but in kind, and to confound together two objects so perfectly and fundamentally different is to create misconceptions and mistakes of which intelligent people should be heartily ashamed. We wish to sell our goods in France; and we do not wish to be handicapped by paying larger entrance fees than are paid by other foreign purveyors. We wish to compete in supplying France with what she buys from abroad; but we wish most certainly to compete on equal terms with third nations. This is all to the advantage of France. For this purpose, but for this alone, we require a "most-favoured-nation" treaty. And this covers a most important division of our trade relations, and one of the interests of which we cannot afford to ignore.

As for the tariff under which we shall enter France in common with other foreigners that is a matter which affects France far more than it affects us. The "better terms" we hear so much about are better for us only in a minor degree, but in a very major degree for France. A very serious state of affairs will be surely induced in France if she finds herself stranded without facilities of commercial intercourse with her neighbours. For instance, her wine-growing industry is already in a condition of absolute shrinkage, and some of the older wine-growing districts have latterly survived in partial prosperity simply by the introduction of the new industry of wine manufacture. This substitute will find itself in serious jeopardy of extinction when by the injurious political exigencies of French Ministries England is driven to open up and develop direct trade in wines with Spain and Italy, and her own great southern colonies. If the French determine to curtail their freedom of profiting as a nation by unrestricted exchange they curtail their opportunities of prosperous growth. We suffer to the extent to which this failing prosperity of a near market curtails the consumption of our goods in that market. We shall also suffer if and whenever the high tariff lessens or altogether stops the consumption by the French of certain classes of our goods. All this is so far bad for us, but all this is far worse and far more injurious to France. We retain, while France gives up, the alternative of exchanging in numerous other markets what we do not want for what we do want; and what we can manufacture or supply cheaper for what others can manufacture or supply cheaper; and so we gain by the inevitable profits accruing to all exchange. These are the main economic results of no commercial treaty; and they are results which in course of time will lead the French to reconsider their position and attempt to open up another or another remedy the evils that necessarily arise when political exigencies interfere to the detriment of industrial progress. In the meantime, it would be ignorant folly on our part to give up the other of the two conditions of the successful supply of foreign markets—the condition, that is, which places us on an equality with all other foreign purveyors. But the two matters are distinct, and to confound them together is to breed misconceptions that may be fatal and must be injurious to much commercial and industrial enterprise.—Pall Mall Gazette.

THE TIGHT-LACING MANIA.

The clever and suggestive lecture on the "Dress of the Period," delivered on Saturday by Mr. Frederick Treves to an audience which crowded the Kensington Town Hall to overflowing, serves as an illustration, were any needed, of the deep and perennial interest attaching to the subject of dress.

How far our present free condition is from the imaginary state of perfect raiment was abundantly illustrated by the diagrams, casts, and models exhibited by Mr. Treves in support of his views. At least in civilized life, admits theoretically that tight lacing is injurious, just as every woman denies it in perfect good faith. They have a sort of impression that a corset is a natural thing, at least in civilized life, like a shoe to protect the foot or something on the head to cover it from rain and sunshine. Because they have been inured to the construction they believe it to be necessary. These probabilities are among the least culpable in respect of tight lacing, and yet they are bad examples. They do themselves a little harm, but not enough to produce patent and unmistakable results, and they encourage the use of stays amongst young women. But that tight lacing exists at present to an extent nothing short of frightful may be proved beyond all doubt to any one who chooses to see. Girls may be seen by hundreds walking in the streets and parks whose waists excite horror and alarm in the beholder. The size of a normal healthy woman is about twenty-eight inches in circumference, and its shape is oval. The waist of the corset of the period is twenty-one and sixteen inches, and the shape is perfectly round. Of course this compression, unaccompanied by a wooden corset, is unbecomingly, we should have imagined, to the tentative arm of a timid adorer. Even on the score of attractiveness, these waspish waists are a mistake. The plates in fashion-books, which are, by the way, responsible for a great deal of mischief, exhibit forms which are shocking to every feeling of beauty or sense, but which happily are, as Mr. Treves assured his audience, in showing them a figure enlarged from a magazine of modes, incompatible with life. No woman could look like that and live. Again, the fashionable boot and shoe, with cuts of which the makers adorn their advertisements, are nothing but a parody on the Chinese deformity, which we regard with horror of the custom and pity for the victim. The shape of the natural foot, the arrangement of the bones are totally disregarded, and the result, when placed side by side with the Chinese deformed and hideous member, differs in little from it.

Amateur talking on these matters is not of much use. The offender acquiesces gently in the censure and continues to offend. But when men of science take the matter up, and demonstrate the terrible results to the individual and the race of these vicious practices, women should not close their eyes and ears. Mothers should look to it. Mistresses of schools, matrons of establishments for the reception of girls and young women of every class and of every age, should be the most practised perhaps in the middle and lower—all women placed in authority over the young are responsible.—Daily News.

THE DRESS OF THE PERIOD.—On Saturday afternoon Mr. F. Treves, F.R.C.S., of the London Hospital, gave a lecture at the Kensington Town Hall, in connection with the National Health Society, on the subject of the Dress of the Period. Dr. Andrew Clark was to have presided, but had been prevented away into the country, and Professor Flower took the chair in his place. A letter from Dr. Clark was read, referring to Mr. Treves as an accomplished anatomist, a skilful surgeon, and a very thoughtful, able, and earnest man. The lecturer said the object of dress was to maintain an equable temperature over the body, but female dress failed to fulfil this object. Full evening dress might be said to divide the lady who wore it into the frigid, the temperate, and the torrid zones. The greater part of the lecture was devoted to the subject of tight lacing, though French boots and shoes, trains, gloves covering the arm, crinolines, and other freaks of dress were noticed, and much amusement was caused by a quotation from a recent article in the Daily News, that with this style bonnet the month should be worn slightly opened. The true lines of the female form (with a waist of twenty-eight inches) were illustrated by a model of Thorvaldsen's Venus; the fashionable waist was shown by a corset on a model, lent by Messrs. Shill and Co., the waist measurement being twenty-one inches; and the "dressmaker's ideal" was depicted in a drawing from a fashion plate. With respect to the last, Mr. Treves said it was some consolation to the proprietors of the corset, who were absolutely inconsistent with life. Costume models were, he said, to be found in London with a measurement of twenty-five inches round the waist, but even that implied a compression of at least three inches. He explained, as demonstrated by means of diagrams, the injurious effect of compression on the lungs, the heart, the stomach, and the liver, and quoted from the Lancet, and from Dr. Danford Thomas, coroner for Central Middlesex, to show that death from tight-lacing, which is a frequent occurrence, is a fashionably-dressed woman, he said, must walk ungracefully, and no one ever had a small waist naturally, except as the result of disease or deformity. For evening dress the lecturer spoke approvingly of the recently introduced "French corset," which was exhibited on a model. A vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Treves on the motion of Mr. Ernest Hart, seconded by Dr. Carpenter. The hall was densely filled, for the most part by ladies; and so many ladies were unable to obtain admittance, that it was announced that the lecture would be repeated on March 18.

THE DUNECHT MYSTERY.

An Aberdeen correspondent wrote on Sunday night:—What has for the last three months been known as the Dunecht mystery, which has been a mystery as ever. Its present revival is founded on the arrest of two men supposed to have been connected with the snatching of the body of the late Earl of Balcarras from the family crypt last year. In the month of January last, the body of the late Earl of Balcarras, who had been dead for some time, was discovered in the crypt of the Dunecht tomb. The letter, being evidently the work of some illiterate person, remained as a curiosity, and was therefore disregarded. Shortly after the crime was discovered, however, another anonymous letter was received. It was signed "Nabob," and offered to restore the missing body on payment of £5,000. The present arrests have been made on the result of the result of inquiries as to the writer of this "Nabob" letter. Correspondence has been going on through the medium of newspaper advertisements with one of the parties arrested, such replies apparently emanating from several towns in Scotland. The man, however, always coming from the same place and the handwriting always bearing a striking resemblance to that of "Nabob," a warrant was granted last week for the arrest of this person. The arrest having been accomplished, the man, whose name is Thomas Kirkwood, a joiner by trade, was taken to London and brought before Lord Crawford, whose servant he had been for several years, and subsequently before the Scotland-yard authorities, but he refused to answer any questions about his connection or supposed connection with the robbery from the Dunecht tomb. On Saturday morning Kirkwood arrived in Aberdeen from London, under the charge of Inspector Swanson, of Scotland-yard. It was apparent that he was a prisoner. He was arrested and made, and that the three prisoners should meet face to face in the County Constabulary Office in Aberdeen. Immediately on Kirkwood's arrival one other arrest was accomplished. It was that of John Phillips, a shoemaker in Aberdeen, formerly a soldier and a drill instructor, in the neighbourhood of Dunecht. The third party, like Kirkwood, a resident in the vicinity of Dunecht House, was not at home when the officer with the arrest warrant arrived. The two prisoners were brought to Aberdeen on Saturday afternoon. The proceedings were strictly private, and the prisoners were remanded for a week. It is understood, however, that the chief feature of the evidence against one of the two prisoners was the similarity of the handwriting and the phraseology of the letters sent in answer to advertisements with regard to the anonymous letters referred to. It may be added that Kirkwood is 44 years of age and Phillips 43. Detective Inspector Swanson left Aberdeen for London on Saturday afternoon, but Mr. Alsop, Lord Crawford's London agent, remains in Aberdeen, while Lord Crawford himself will remain at Dunecht until it can be seen what shape the further proceedings in the case will take. The inquiry who left Aberdeen on Friday night, was furnished with two warrants, one to search Kirkwood's house, and the other to search the house occupied by one of the servants of the estate. The warrants were duly executed, causing great alarm and consternation in the respective localities. The search of Kirkwood's house began at 4 o'clock on Saturday morning, and lasted for two hours, his wife protesting his innocence. Kirkwood is a workman of more than ordinary skill. He receives from Lord Balcarras a free house, fire and light, and about £80 per annum. Phillips has been for some time employed at a leather merchant's in Gallogay.

COURT AND FASHIONABLE NEWS.

WINDSOR CASTLE, SUNDAY. The Queen drove out yesterday afternoon, attended by the Dowager Duchess of Roxburghe. The German Ambassador (Count von Bismarck), the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and Count Herbert von Bismarck (Councillor of the German Embassy) arrived at the Castle yesterday afternoon. Her Majesty's dinner party included Princess Beatrice, the Duke of Connaught and Stratford, Prince Leopold and Princess Helen of Waldeck, the Dowager Duchess of Roxburghe, Baroness Lobell, the Hon. Harriet Phipps, the Hon. Evelyn Moore, the German Ambassador, Earl Granville, K.G., Count Herbert Bismarck, Baron von Stockhausen, and Lieutenant-General the Right Hon. Sir H. Ponsonby, K.C.B. Princess Beatrice, Prince Leopold, and Princess Helen of Waldeck attended Divine service this morning in the private Chapel. The Rev. T. Toynmouth Shore, M.A., Chaplain in Ordinary to the Queen, preached the sermon. Her Majesty's visitors have left the Castle.

THE PRINCE OF WALES VISITED THE PRINCE OF WALES AND PYRMONT AT BUCKINGHAM PALACE ON SATURDAY.

His Royal Highness the Duke of Madrid (Don Carlos) was last week elected an honorary member of the Junior Carlton Club. The Earl of Wiltton, although his general condition remains unchanged, passed a quiet night on Friday, and had some hours of refreshing sleep during Saturday. Up to 10.45 on Sunday night no information had been received at Lord Wiltton's house in Grosvenor-square as to his condition. Viscount Lismore is still very seriously ill at Brighton. His lordship is suffering from a sharp attack of bronchitis. A marriage is arranged between Mr. Edward Knight, only son of Mr. Knight, of the Blithing House, Kent, and Miss Evans-Lombe, youngest daughter of Mr. Evans-Lombe, of Blythburgh Park, Norfolk.

OPENING OF THE ELECTRICAL EXHIBITION.

The Electrical Exhibition, which has for so long attracted the attention of the Crystal Palace, was formally inaugurated on Saturday evening, in the presence of a large assembly, by the Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh, who, with the Prince of Wales and Pyrmont, were the honoured guests of the occasion. The directors of the institution, their Royal Highnesses, attended by Lord and Lady Dalhousie, the Earl and Countess Beatrix, Colonel Cliville, Lady Emma Osborne, Captain Clarke, and Sir Cunliffe Owen, arrived at the Palace at a few minutes after six o'clock, and were received at the doors by the Chairman of the Board, Mr. M. George, Professor Sylvanus Thompson, Mr. Dickson, Mr. Thompson, Major Flood Page (manager), and who, as once conducted the Royal Party through the building, and showed them the principal features of interest. Of course in a visit necessarily of short duration only a tithe of the numerous exhibits could be any possibility be brought under their view; but, as a matter of fact, embraced those of the most importance and utility. The exhibition, although not entirely complete, may for all practical purposes be considered so, and at any rate so far as regards the important point of electric lighting, which may be taken as the great centre from which everything else works, there is very little either left to be accomplished or, indeed, to be desired. Amongst such a multiplicity of steam and gas engines working with steady persistency to generate currents of electricity in innumerable dynamo machines, apparently to the unskilled eye to produce only the same brilliant and beautiful effect of light, it would be hard to make any judgment, as in passing along from any portion of the building, each in turn, under the direct and immediate view, appears to surpass its predecessors. Certainly the Palace authorities have never before devised a show that at the same time shall amuse the public, bring profit to the proprietors, and be both utilitarian and instructive to the extent of the present exhibition. From end to end the building is full of surprises. Telephones bristle at every turn and corner, and inquiry at the numerous stalls only goes to show that some of the simplest objects of common life have been reduced to the subject of the great power of the day. But, of course, as before stated, the chief attraction is the numerous systems of lighting, which last night vied with one another in brilliancy. Beginning at the north end of the building, there is one continuous line of illumination by electricity by various systems throughout the whole length of the building and the railway corridor leading to the London, Brighton, and South Coast Railway Station, a mile and a half, and the company of individual has a space set apart for it across the entire building, and including the courts at the sides, so that a comparison of the relative merits of the different systems is more easily arrived at than when they were, as at Paris, in a manner intensified. At the extreme north is the engine-house of the Anglo-American Brush Electric Light Corporation, an erection of about 100 by 70 feet, in which six engines are employed working dynamo-motors, from which are illuminated one great arc light of 150,000 candle-power, 40 arc lights of 2,000 candle-power, 26 smaller arc lights used in sundry by-places, and 600 incandescent lamps of the Lane-Fox type. The latter, which are used in the illumination of the Alhambra Theatre, have a beautiful effect, every colour being fully brought out, while submarine lights of the same character, sunk in the north fountain basin, astonish equally the spectators and the fish. Next in order to the Brush Company is the Electric Light and Power Generator Company, who use as its arc lamp the "Weston" and the "Maxim" for the incandescent principle. The latter is brilliantly shown by a series of crystal chandeliers made for the purpose by De la Rue and Sons. Beyond these, in their turn follow the British Electric Light Company, who in addition to their portion of the nave, also illuminate the Egyptian and Italian Courts, while the centre transept has a grand light in its midst by means of 10,000 candles, each of six arc lamps of 2,000 candles each, a similar number of the "Pilsen" type being used on the Handel Orchestra. The Opera Theatre and the adjoining avenue are lighted by Jablochhoff, one of the pioneers of electric light, while the concert room, under the direction of Mr. Edison's manager, presents a splendid appearance with 600 incandescent lights tastefully arranged in festoons and pendants. In the south nave, Messrs. Strode and Co., with the Mackenzie arc lamp, M. Edison's incandescent lamp, and the Edison and the Edison in the corridor the Hammond Electric Light Company, who work the Brush system, have the entire charge. Of the innumerable exhibits doing good to prove that electricity is capable of doing nearly everything short of actual talking, probably those most visited on Saturday night were interesting collections of telegraphic and torpedo apparatus, lent by the War Office, a splendid chronologically arranged set of telegraph instruments and apparatus from the Post Office, and the railway signal, lent by the Great Eastern Railway Company. Messrs. Saxby and Farmer, Messrs. Winter and Craik, and the London, Brighton, and South Coast and the South Western Railway Companies. The system of Mr. Sykes, as shown by a working model of four sections, lent by the Electric Light and Power Generator Company, can range to give absolute immunity from accident. Throughout the whole building are hundreds of stalls, on which interesting articles are displayed, including telephones, electric clocks, electric clocks, insulating materials, medical instruments, and every conceivable application in connection with electricity, but for one single spot, the exhibition of Mr. Edison, in his so-called "entertainment room," stands unrivalled. It is a room of great interest, and is, as it were, as easily manipulated as gas, and is put to the same uses, electric bells and calls, and a united phonographic and telephonic receiver and transmitter. 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